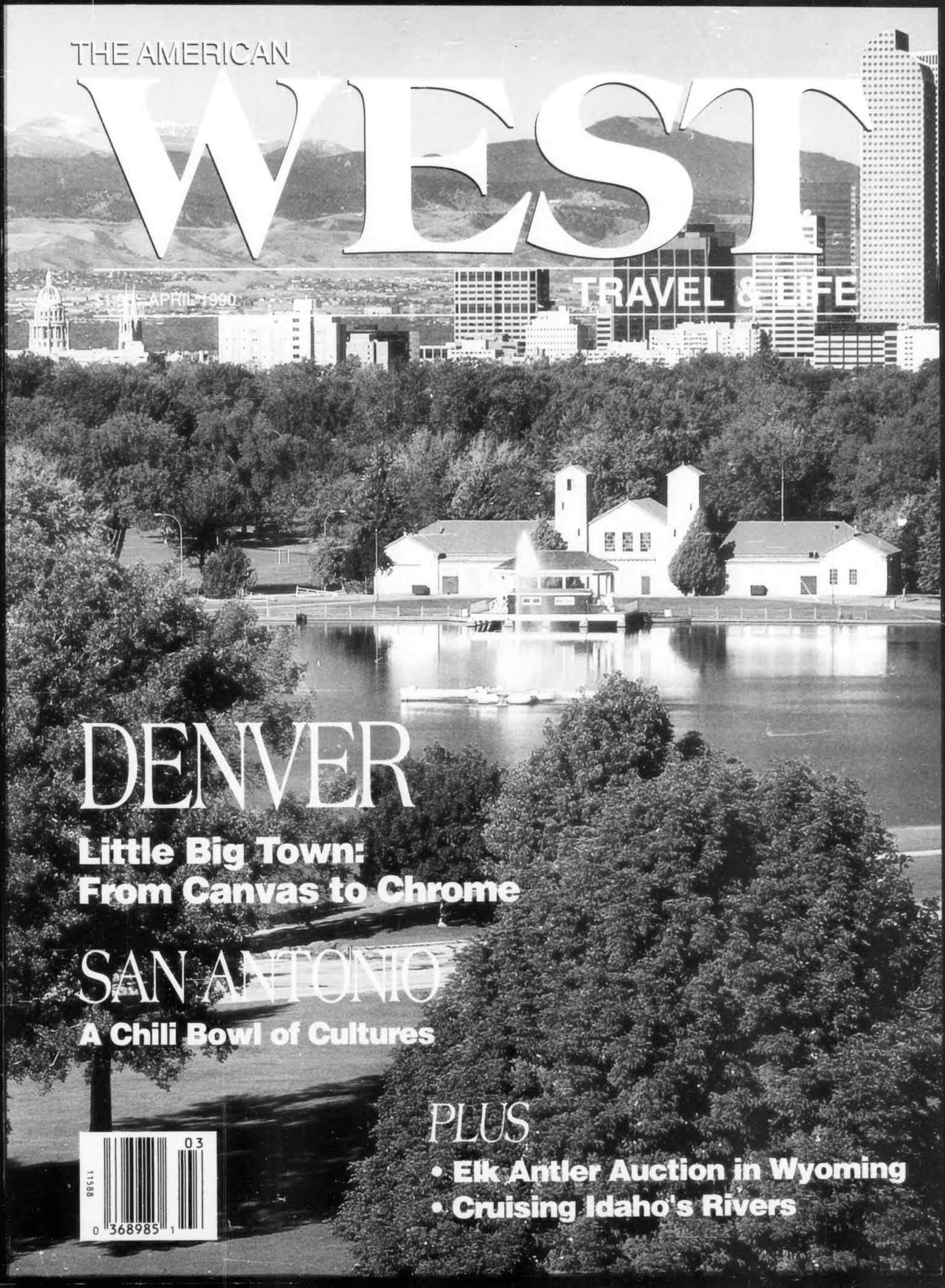
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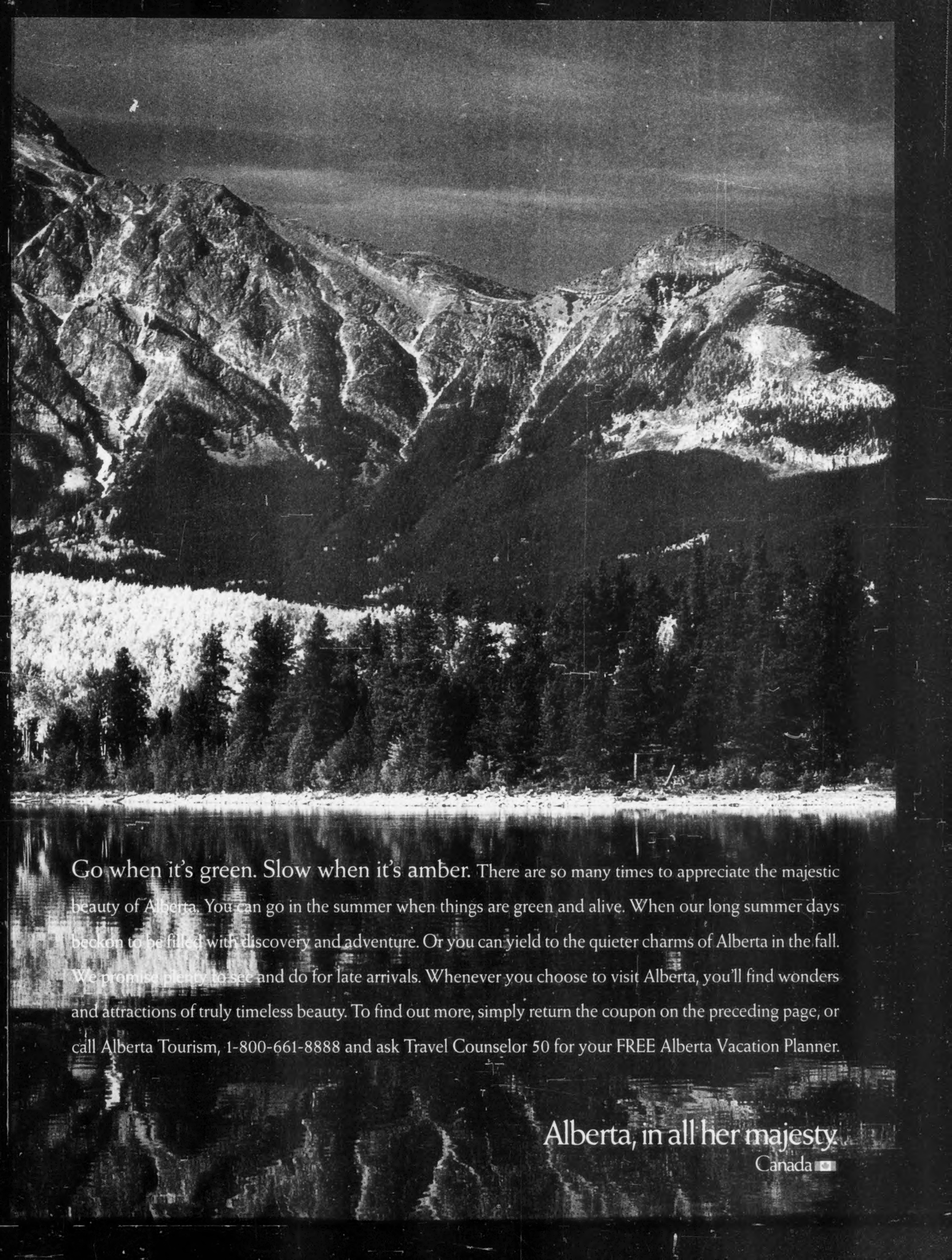
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The American
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TRAVEL & LIFE

APRIL 1990 VOL. XXVII, NO. 2

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ABOUT THE COVER: Denver panorama as seen from the back of the Denver Museum of Natural History; photo by Ron Ruhoff.

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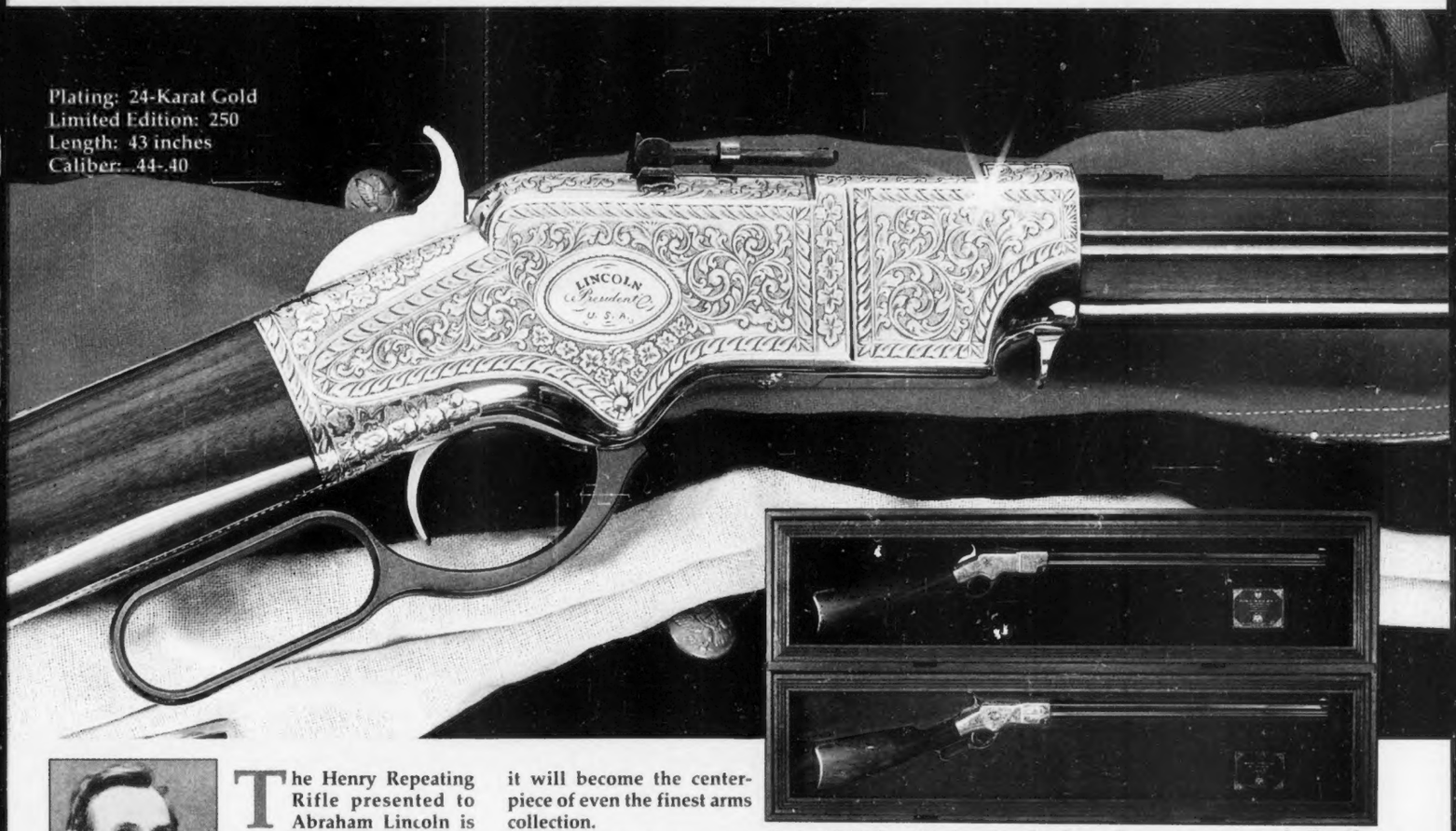

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Man, Strength and West

God, how I miss you, Tom! (Tom Pew, former editor-in-chief). With apology to the new all-girl magazine, Tom was man, strength and West. Goodbye, *American West*. Your truth, your fantasy gone forever for the sake of change. Didn't they know we needed you, to hold on to, to run to, to hide in from this crazy materialistic world of travel, fashion and foolishness. We will miss them — the editorials of round-ups, cattle drives, old barns and the West Tom *knew* and we didn't up here in New England.

Goodbye, I say, realizing that all rivers run into the sea at some point.

Mrs. M. Nieb
Berwick, ME

Sic, Sic and Sick

I like the new look regarding *The American West* and wish to convey to you several "Kudos" and "Warm fuzzies" for the changes, which you should be encouraged to continue.

It is my feeling that you are "tracking" appropriately despite some of the feelings expressed in 'Letters To The Editor.' Many of these are veritably sic...sic...sick! A horseback guestimation — many of these folks appear to be so narrow-minded they could look through a keyhole with both eyes, simultaneously. In any event, the magazine is a class "fanzine" as I see it, so be encouraged to continue the trend.

I do have one suggestion to offer for your consideration: The Western Wearables feature somehow doesn't seem to fit! In lieu of this, I'm suggesting that you, and your fine staff, substitute a series of articles about the great Western writers: Zane Grey, Owen Wister, Charles Alden Seltzer and, of course, Louis L'Amour...et al.

These are the men who 'fashioned' the West and are much more interesting than those temptin' gals with their spit curls and fancy tack.

As I see the situation, how the West was won and/or worn is not as pertinent as HOW THE WEST IS, now...today.

Rather than to relegate this fine "fanzine" to some journalistic compost pile, I'm anticipating a great ride into the nineties, as we certainly are riding similar trails currently. Yahoo, and let's get on down the trail together. Anticipating the next issue.

Gene Stivers
Zane Grey's West Society
Forlorn River Chapter
Klamath Falls, OR

Yuk, Yuk and Yuk!

I am terribly disappointed in the direction that *The American West*, which used to be a fine western magazine, is taking.

In the January, 1990 issue you say in your editorial that the future of the magazine will feature cities.

I hate, loathe and despise cities.

Allen Silveus
Myrtle Point, OR

Cities: Necessary Blight

Imagine my surprise when on a quiet New Year's Eve, I picked up the February issue of *The American West* and scanned the Letters to the Editor. I had been too busy to read my December issue.

It took me all of 30 minutes to check out both your December and February issue. I think you shot yourself in the foot, or maybe the head, when you changed your format. Your "new" magazine *does* look just like everyone else's now. As for Vail, Colorado, we don't even vacation in the state of Colorado anymore as the developers there have destroyed it with ski slopes and condominiums where the "beautiful people" flock. The American West as it once was is fast disappearing from the face of the earth!

So you're going to show-case "cities west of the Mississippi River" now instead of featuring quaint, out-of-the-way places like Indian Lodge in the Davis Mountains of Texas or the Izaak Walton Inn in Montana as you've done in the past? Count me out! As far as I'm concerned, I would never vacation in a city. Cities are a necessary blight on the American landscape becoming bigger and bigger by today's materialistic society. I'll take the wide open spaces and the quaint small towns as long as there are any left.

Marilyn J. Schmidt
Wichita, KS

Let the Tradition Speak

A new decade, and new changes at *American West*. I wish you the best of luck, with increased circulation and popularity.

My company has been publishing historical books on the West since 1902, and has also seen changes in operation and attitude. As a mail order bookstore, as well, we have been acquainted with *The American West* since the old Lane Publishing days. When Tom Pew and Arch Brown took over the magazine a few years back, there was a real rebellion among the academic community concerning the editorial direction the magazine was taking. The Western History Association dropped their sponsorship and support, and threw a few insults as well. At that time I supported Tom as best I could within both the WHA and academia. I replied to a few of the letters in the magazine — letters which were the vitriolic equal to those you printed in the February issue. An honest popular approach to Western history is good, I feel, for all of us in the Western Americana field. We contributed material for an article (Nov.-Dec. '85) and ran an ad as often as we could afford the rates — which escalated along with the circulation. I liked the approach Tom and Arch took.

You have chosen another path, and time will prove its value. I wish you luck. I do not find the material as interesting, but you may have targeted a broader audience. I feel I have lost a friend who called out and spoke to those awakening to a love of our frontier heritage. To do that today, owners and editors have to love that heritage and want to preserve it in the face of our God-awful need to grow and profit financially. The history market is stable, and in many ways stagnant.

Good luck. You've inherited quite a tradition. Let the tradition speak on occasion.

Robert A. Clark, President
The Arthur H. Clark Company
Spokane, WA

Shoddy or Slick?

I have just received your February issue. Though I have been a subscriber of *The American West* for several years, since the change in management I find the magazine worthless, shoddy, slick and totally lacking in the information that initially attracted me to the magazine. Whatever information is in the magazine is available to me in the Sunday Travel Section of my local *Chicago Tribune*.

Irene Golec
Chicago, IL

Somebody Out There Loves Us

What a delightful and fascinating magazine! Until three years ago, both my husband and I inhabited the Southwest, and explored the very areas you write about. (I was raised in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and he in Globe, Arizona.) It took us by total surprise, finding a copy of your magazine in a hotel on Orcas Island! Your articles on Vail and Gallup were great, but they certainly didn't do much for making us less homesick! Now we have discovered a way to ease the "pain" of missing the Southwest — your magazine. Please rush our first issue, and thanks for providing us with a way to still enjoy our old "stomping grounds"!

A new avid reader and permanent subscriber —

Karen S. Aiello
Salem, OR

Into the Sunset — Together

About change: they had little education and no couth but California Joe Milner

continued on page 32

EDITOR'S LETTER

Magazine publishing can be a crazy business. The articles you are reading in this March/April issue of the *The American West* were written early last fall, laid out and typeset in January. For our Denver story, assistant editor Bruce Kaplan spent Thanksgiving in the Mile High City and proved his ability as a trick photographer by shooting spring shots on several wet November days. The author of our San Antonio article, Charlotte Garner, had an even harder job. She spent a cold and icy Christmas week in the city of fiestas trying to persuade people, and animals at the San Antonio Zoo, that they were basking in the warm spring sunshine. When you look at her photos, I think you'll agree that her powers of persuasion are pretty strong.

Accompanying these city profiles are two articles commemorating the centennials in Idaho and Wyoming. Genevieve Rowles describes her river rafting experiences down some of Idaho's quieter streams and Susan Bayer Ward tells the fascinating story of the annual Elk Antler Auction in Jackson, Wyoming, and the youthful entrepreneurs who run it — the "richest Boy Scout troop in America."

Denver is really center stage in this issue. Our Home Sweet Home piece spotlights the Molly Brown House, once owned by the unsinkable heroine of the *Titanic* disaster, while the Journey's End profile, also by Genevieve Rowles, focuses on the romantic Queen Anne Inn.

Another change in format appears in this issue, at the request of readers. The Travel Calendar, which formerly only appeared in Chronicle West (which our subscribers receive), has now been moved into the main magazine so that our hotel readers can enjoy this listing of March and April happenings in the West, plus a special section devoted to Idaho and Wyoming centennial events.

We're also delighted to have been responsible for a family reunion, which came about as the result of our publishing an ususual wedding photo in Remembering The Past (the old photo section in Chronicle West) in the December issue. That photo produced letters from two other members of the Barker family (see the Letters to the Editor for one of them), as well as two more photos featured in this month's Remembering The Past.

Sue Giles

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/PUBLISHER

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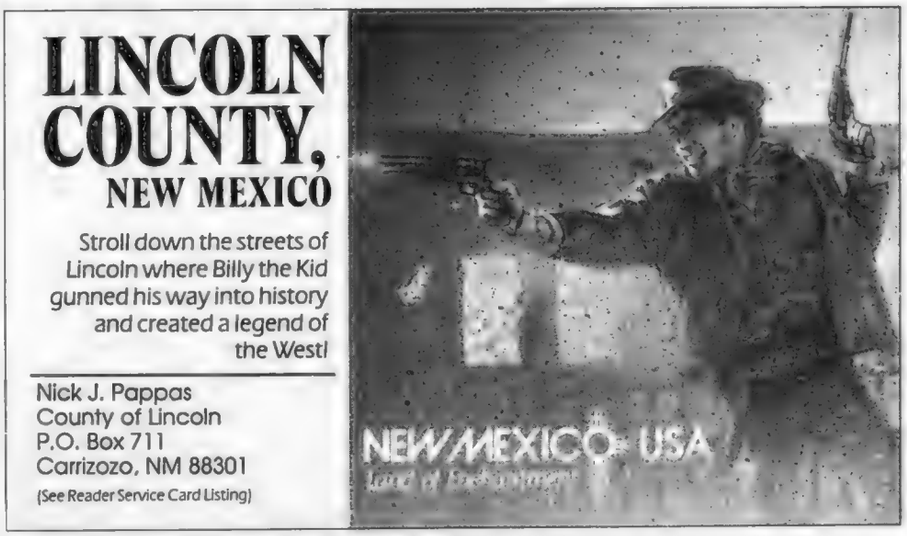
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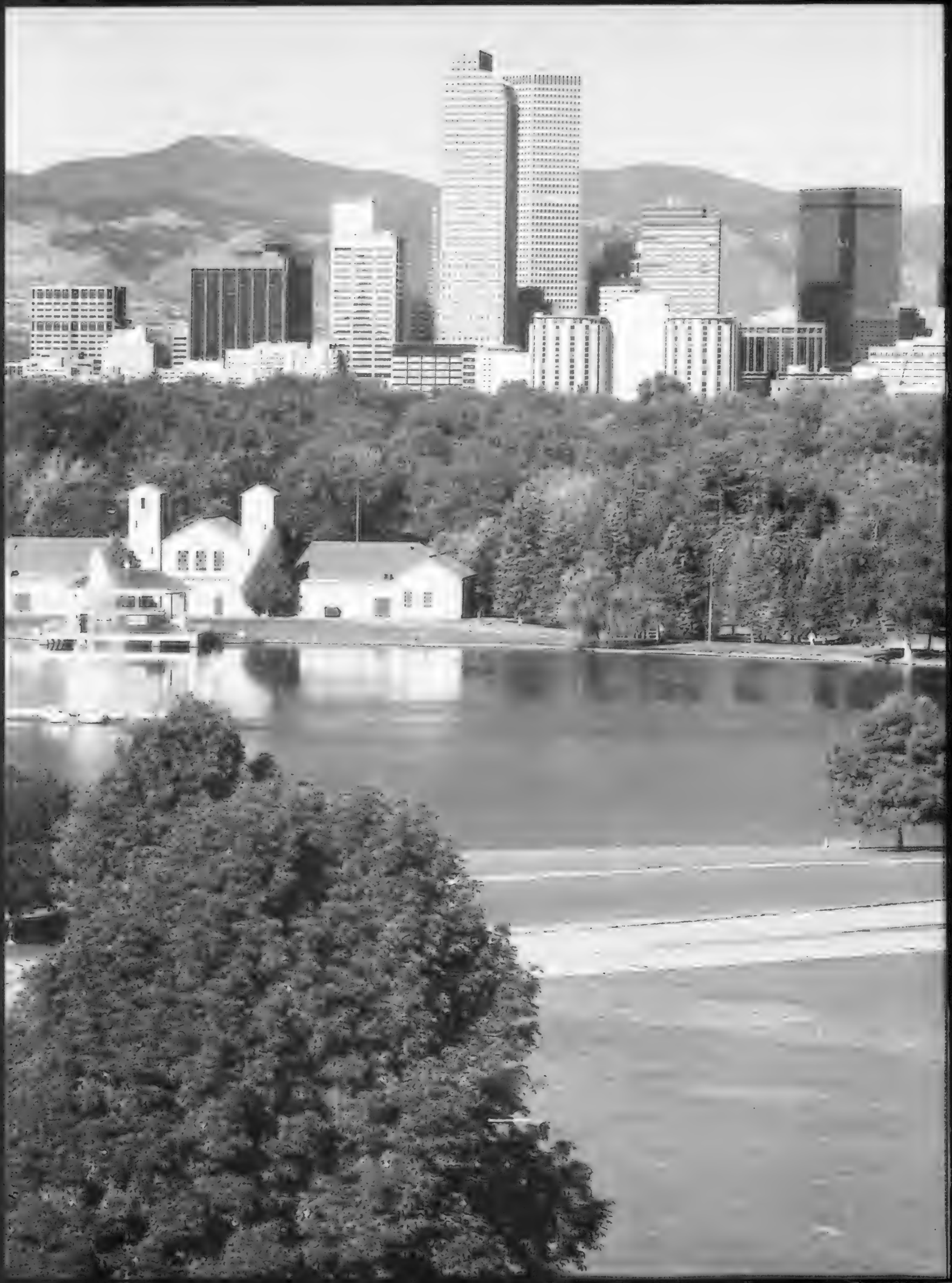


by Susan Kaye

PHOTOS BY BRUCE KAPLAN
EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED

OPPOSITE PAGE: Denver panorama as seen from the back of the Denver Museum of Natural History in City Park.
PHOTO BY RON RUHOFF, COURTESY OF DENVER METROPOLITAN CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

LEFT: The 16th St. Mall.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DENVER METROPOLITAN CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

BELOW LEFT: Youngsters have fun browsing among the toys at Kazoo & Company.

BELOW RIGHT: Racine's is a popular spot for lunch near the downtown area.

D E N V E R

Little Big Town:
From Canvas to Chrome

A springboard to the Rocky Mountains, Denver perches exactly one mile above sea level at the edge of Colorado's eastern prairie. To the south, snow-draped Pikes Peak looms, a slumbering giant. To the north, craggy Longs Peak punctuates turquoise-blue sky. In between, some 20 other 14,000-foot summits define the horizon.

Every morning, the tentative light of dawn first strikes

D E N V E R

the peaks of the mountains to the west, then glints off the 2-carat-gold dome of Colorado's State Capitol. And that's just as it should be in a city born during the gold rush of 1859 and fueled by the wealth of prospectors. In just 130 years, Denver has grown from a tent city of gold miners to the financial, retail and transportation hub of the Rocky Mountain west.

Perhaps Denver's vibrancy comes from its youthful population, whose median age is under 30. Or perhaps it's the climate — over 300 days of sunshine every year. Or it could be the city itself, with its 200 parks and dozens of tree-lined boulevards.

Whatever the secret, the Mile High City has a pizazz all its own. Much of downtown resembles a "Dynasty" set. In a six-year building spree in the early 1980s, Denver added 16 skyscrapers, a performing arts complex, a mile-long pedestrian mall, two major shopping complexes and two museums, all within walking distance of downtown hotels. The new glass and steel skyline overwhelms the bronze statues of broncobusters and gold-panners that fill Civic Center Park.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Another of Denver's many parks, Skyline Park.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DENVER METROPOLITAN CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

TOP RIGHT: This whimsical aluminum sculpture graces the entrance to the Spectrum Building, so-called because of the dramatic rainbow light effects created by the sun shining through its faceted glass roof.

RIGHT: The new interactive health science exhibit in the Hall of Life, Denver Museum of Natural History.
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

It's no surprise to any of its residents (500,000 in the city proper, another 1.3 million in the suburbs), that in a 1988 University of Kentucky study of 24 of 26 of the nation's largest metropolitan areas Denver ranked first in quality of life.

Denver's climate is mild. Even in January, the coldest month with an average high of 42 degrees, there are some 25 days of sunshine. The heaviest snowfalls are apt to occur in March and April, when snow tends to fall one day and melt the next.

Denver's residents actively pursue an outdoor lifestyle, heading to the mountains on weekends, playing tennis, jogging or bicycling after work. Joggers sprint along the city streets and down the 20 miles of paved paths bordering Cherry Creek and the Platte River. Cyclists are so common that streets leading into the downtown area have marked bicycle lanes. Spurred on by the popularity of skiing, Denver boasts more sporting goods stores per capita than any other city in the U.S.

What else do Denverites do besides stay healthy? They love their movies (highest attendance figures in the nation) and their books (The Tattered Cover in Cherry Creek North is the largest bookstore between Chicago and California). As elsewhere in the country, most retail growth has been concentrated at the suburban malls. But downtown shopping was lifted out of the ordinary with the opening of The Shops at Tabor Center, named after Denver's mining magnate Horace Tabor, who built Denver's first four-story building on the site in 1879. Today the glass-covered atrium bearing his name is a two-block stretch of over 60 shops fronted by trees, fountains, modernistic street lamps and banners.

Adjacent to the center is the 325-foot D&F Tower, a Denver landmark since 1910 when it was the tallest building west of the Mississippi. Those Denver-

ites who grew up in the city remember the white-gloved doorman who welcomed them to the tower's department store, now converted to offices.

A five-minute walk from Tabor Center leads to Larimer Square, the site of Denver's first business district and the city's most historic block. The Victorian atmosphere is reinforced by brick-paved sidewalks, wrought-iron benches and hanging flower baskets. It's a good area for restaurant and boutique browsing.

THE REAL WEST

From the beginning, Denver was the most elegant city in a thousand-mile radius. Oysters and French champagne were routinely hauled by wagon train across the prairie. As Denver's grande dame Helen Black said, "This never was a cowtown. Ladies came out here with pianos in their covered wagons."

Understanding the gold-fever, mining-camp atmosphere that shaped 19th-century Denver adds a new dimension to visiting the Mile High City. "Some Europeans arrive here expecting to see the Wild West," explained resident Karin Bonde, whose interest lies in historic preservation. "And, in fact, the legacy of Denver's mining moguls lives on in their gracious homes in the Capitol Hill district. And lower downtown, with its two-and three-story brick-fronted buildings, still has many vestiges of the West." Historic Denver, Inc. offers walking, van and bus tours of both these areas.

One of the most popular professors at the University of Colorado at Denver, historian Dr. Thomas Noel, leads his students on tours of everything from cemeteries to suburbs. "I like to introduce people to the saloons and restaurants in the lower downtown area," he said. "They are a real escape from the slickness of generic 20th century. Some have old walk-in, wooden refrigerators and lots of memorabilia."

The biggest western event in Denver, indeed in all of Colorado, is the annual National Western Stock Show every January. Last year, 500,000 people turned out to see the cows come to town, and Mayor Federico Peña led the parade wearing Levis. Perhaps more significantly, the Mayor wore a bolo tie with his New Year's Eve tux.

The barometer of interest in Denver's western roots is on the rise. In the 1950s and 1960s, the city was still in some ways a cowtown, with the smell of stockyards permeating the streets and a feeling that the citizenry was uncultured and fresh from the fields. Then, when Johns Manville relocated from Manhattan to Denver in 1971, the dress of the day became three-piece suits. Oil and high-tech companies set up shop in Denver throughout the '70s and early '80s, and Denver experimented with a more sophisticated ambiance.

"But we were never really comfortable with a high-tech glitter image," recalled Alan Charnes, Denver's manager of revenue, to a *Denver Post* reporter. "We still have trouble with 'cowtown.' But Western, frontier, blue jeans, outdoors — that's us."

A treasure-trove of sights cluster round the capitol. First stop for many is the free, 20-minute tour of the U.S. Mint, the most popular attraction in Denver, which produces 15 million pennies every day — only part of the millions of coins that are stamped, bagged, and shipped from the mint. Some 60 metal presses operate around-the-clock, five days a week, producing almost 7 billion coins annually.

Across the street, the fortress-style Denver Art Museum is a stronghold of American Indian art — everything is here except the war whoops. A special two-story atrium was built onto the museum to house the totem pole collection, and room after room shows the very different approaches to art taken by various tribes.

Nearby is the newly opened Museum of Western Art, described by former governor Richard Lamm as "A remarkable calling card for the West: it makes

HOMETOWN PICKS

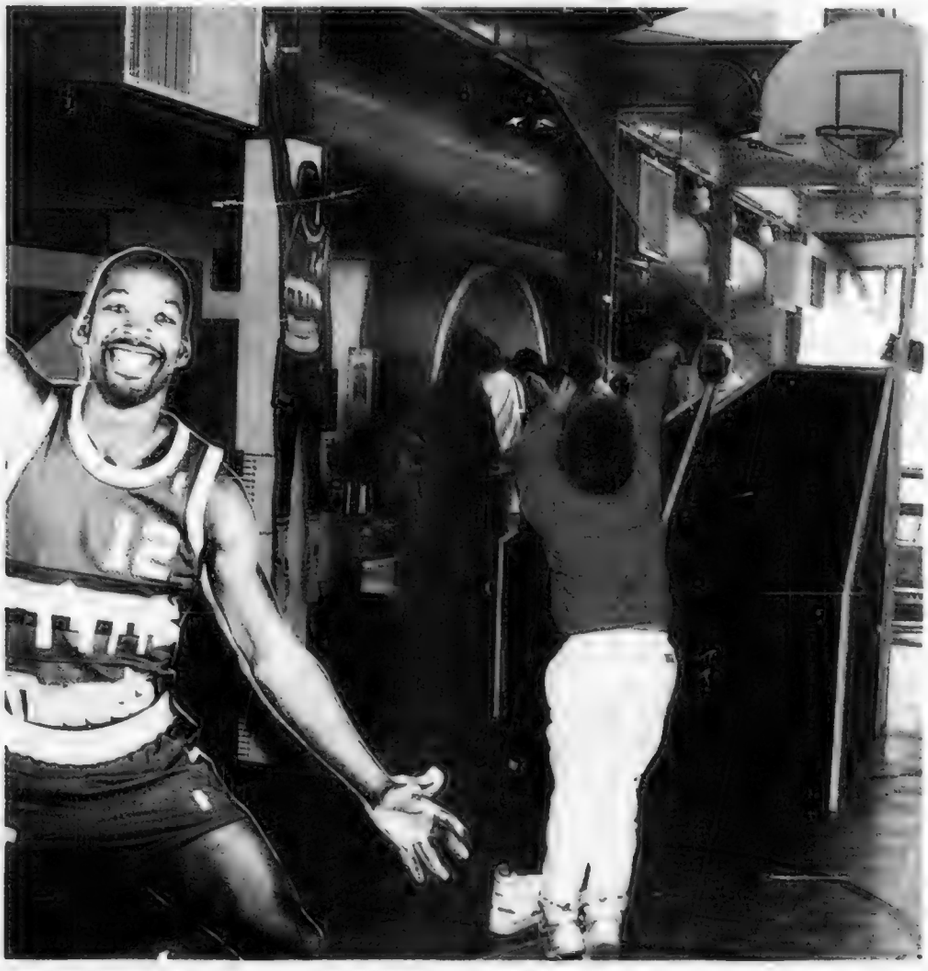
- **Cafe Giovanni** for mocha soufflé.
- **Cliff Young's**, the ultimate romantic setting for dinner, complete with violins.
- **Lickety Split Ice Cream**, scrumptious and homemade.
- Afternoon tea in the magnificent lobby of the **Brown Palace Hotel**.
- **Gabriel's** in Sedalia, the place for excellent Italian food outside Denver.
- **Watson's** for late night soda fountain action with the added bonus of a pharmacy and convenience store.
- **The Tattered Cover Bookstore**, the best way to kill an afternoon and exercise your mind.
- Best city view #1 — from the back side of the **Denver Museum of Natural History.**
- Best city view #2 — from the top of the **State Capitol building.**
- For a caloric treat, **Mama's Cinnamon Rolls** in the Tivoli.
- Happy hour at **XXIII Parish**, 5-8 Fridays. You won't believe the spread.

COMPILED BY THE EDITORS OF THE AMERICAN WEST

OPPOSITE PAGE: Washington Park is one of many beautiful Denver Parks.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DENVER METROPOLITAN CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

ABOVE: The lobby of the Brown Palace Hotel in downtown Denver.

BELOW: The Children's Museum is a hands-on learning experience for young people.



introductions so easy." Its smallish private collection encompasses the best from Remington to O'Keeffe. Its stark, revamped interior doesn't begin to hint at its murky past as a brothel with a secret underground pasage to the Brown Palace, the grande dame of Denver's hotels, built by mining mogul Henry C. Brown.

While mining moguls such as Tabor and Brown shaped Denver's history and landscape, one of the world's most famous western personalities also called it home. When Col. William F. Cody, a.k.a. Buffalo Bill, died in Denver in 1917, some 25,000 mourners filed to his foothills grave site. The Buffalo Bill Museum, on Lookout Mountain west of Denver, holds the flashy accessories that were an important part of the showman's bag of tricks: the beaded buckskin costumes, suede jackets dripping three-inch fringe from waist, collar, sleeves and yoke, and elaborately tooled saddles with silver medallions.

One of Buffalo Bill's hangouts was the Buckhorn Exchange, still a favorite local drinking emporium. The Buckhorn, the oldest saloon and restaurant in Denver, was opened by one of Buffalo Bill's friends and fellow scouts. Over 500 stuffed animal heads adorn the walls and the menu features buffalo, elk and venison steaks.

But taming the West was not all showmanship and barroom camaraderie. Homesteaders were plowing fields, milk-

LEFT TOP: A seal enjoys the sun at the Denver Zoo.

LEFT, MIDDLE: Colorful tropical flowers thrive in a climate-controlled enclosure at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

LEFT, BELOW: Larimer Square is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

PHOTO BY RANDY BROWN, COURTESY OF LARIMER SQUARE

ing cows, and slaughtering livestock on the outskirts of Denver, supplying the hordes of prospectors. Today, the history of these sodbusters is preserved at the cottonwood-shaded farm of the Littleton Historical Museum, 12 miles south of downtown Denver. All the carefully tended structures authentically represent Western farm life from 1895 to 1905.

Back in 1917, Colorado historian Dabney Collins wrote, "When I walk down a Denver street, I always feel as if I were listening to a brass band." Seven decades later, the music is still playing, louder each year.

Susan Kaye is a travel writer and photographer and the author of Small People in Colorado Places.

❖ ❖ ❖

INSIDE DENVER

By the Staff of The American West

The following list of things to do and places to go in the city was compiled after extensive interviews with people in the know — residents and frequent visitors to the mile-high city.

No advertising fees have been charged or paid for inclusion in this list.

The area code for the city and most of the rest of the state is 303.

MORE THAN PLACES TO SLEEP

The only thing "brown" at the **Brown Palace Hotel** in downtown Denver is its granite and sandstone exterior. The "palace" part refers to the well-heeled interior with its white marble floors, gold onyx walls and six stories of wrought iron balconies, topped off with a stained-glass ceiling. Each of the 230 rooms and 25 suites has a different feeling and decor, from Victorian red velvet furnishings to art deco bathrooms. Two fine restaurants, a tavern and lounge, as well as many modern meeting rooms and a few shops, make this a wonderful accommodation. *(800) 321-2599, 297-3111.* **The Oxford Alexis Hotel** was actually completed one year before the Brown Palace, in 1891, making it Denver's first luxury hotel. It also had the city's first elevator. By 1979, however, the place had slipped into decline and disrepair. But now it's back, restored to its original luxury, with 82 elegantly appointed rooms furnished with French and English antiques. Lots of extras come with the price of your room: a fresh fruit basket on arrival, complimentary continental breakfast and newspapers, and sherry and coffee served in the lobby. Also, guests can work out at the adjoining health club. *(800) 228-5838, 628-5400.*

If you prefer a more contemporary feel to your lodgings, try **Loews Giorgio Hotel.** The hotel interior is delightfully

continued on page 41

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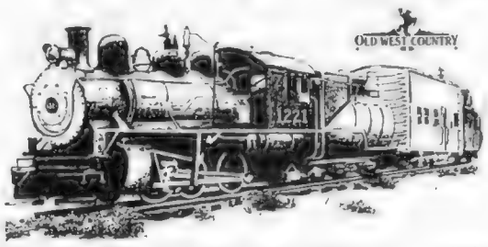

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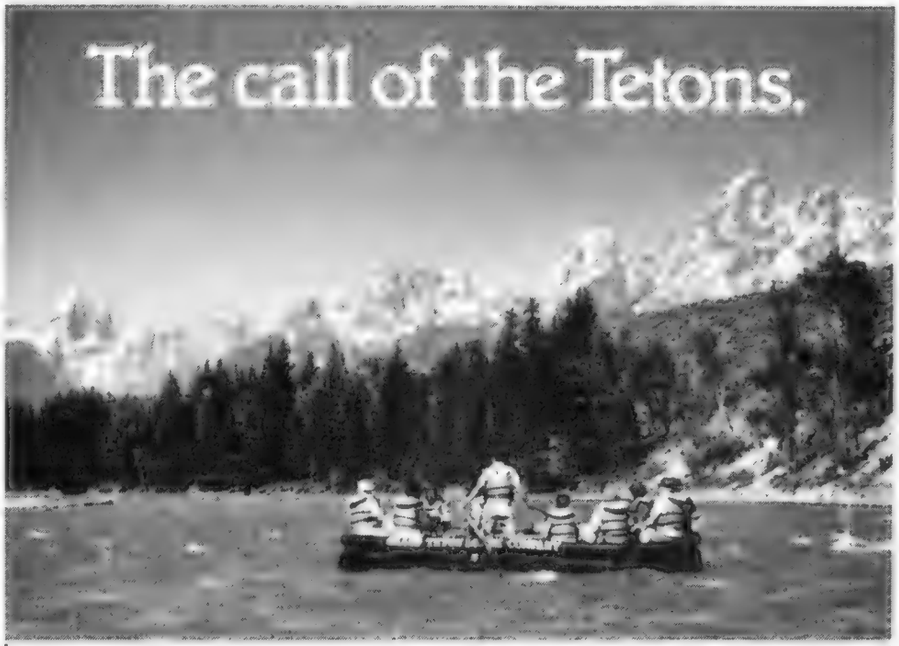

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AW3

SAN ANTONIO

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: Romantic Paseo del Rio winds lazily through the heart of San Antonio.

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT: A cart filled with fanciful piñatas is just part of a colorful scene at Market Square.

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT: Mexican food is the specialty at patio restaurants in Market Square.

THIS PAGE: People-packed barges transport travelers along San Antonio's Paseo del Rio.

A Chili Bowl of Cultures

Text & photos by Charlotte Garner

San Antonio is a city that loves to celebrate its heritage and does so at the drop of a sombrero. Special events are frequent, and each week or month brings another fiesta.

In March, the Texas-Irish observe St. Patrick's Day by dyeing the San Antonio River green and renaming it the River Shannon to honor 12 Irish-born men who lost their lives at the Alamo. April ushers in the year's biggest, most boisterous celebration — Fiesta San Antonio. This 10-day event marks the anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto when Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836. In August, people come from all over the state to take part in the Texas Folklife Festival, which salutes, with food, dances and craft demonstrations, the many ethnic groups that have settled in the Lone Star State. And at year's end, the city celebrates Fiesta de las Luminarias with a tree-lighting ceremony that signals the beginning of the holiday season.

The oldest city in Texas, San Antonio is a chili bowl of cultures — American, German, Spanish, Mexican, French, Scandinavian and Irish. No longer the small frontier town settled in 1718 on a sun-baked plain, San Antonio has become a modern metropolis of nearly one million people with such 20th century trappings as downtown office towers, high-rise hotels and glass-walled shopping centers.

The military has exerted a major influence on the growth of San Antonio. Thousands of civilians are employed by the city's five major bases and more than 45,000 active duty military personnel now make their homes there. Fort Sam Houston is headquarters for the Fifth Army and home to Brooks Army Medical Center. San Antonio also boasts four large air force bases: Kelly, Brooks, Lackland and Randolph.

SAN ANTONIO

Despite its steady march into the future, San Antonio retains the aura of a friendly small town with a fun-loving heart. Poet Sidney Lanier, who came to the Sunbelt city for his health in 1872, didn't discover a magic cure for his ills, but he did find an undercurrent of contagious merriment which prompted him to remark, "It stands with all its gay prosperity on the edge of a lonesome, untilled belt of land 150 miles wide, like Mardi Gras on the austere brink of Lent."

Nowhere is this spirit of frivolity more visible than along the San Antonio River. As one views the river from above, it is easy to understand why the city is called "the Venice of the Southwest." Far below, a sinuous ribbon of green water winds its way between banks linked by arched stone bridges. Lights twinkle in tree branches and brightly painted river barges glide over the water.

An integral part of local history, the San Antonio River was discovered by a group of Spanish explorers on June 13, 1691. They named it San Antonio de Padua in honor of the saint whose feast day it happened to be. Springs that feed the river bubble up north of town. The waterway then follows a lazy, looping path through the heart of downtown San Antonio, eventually emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, some 100 miles to the southeast.

In frontier days, the river provided San Antonians with drinking water and later created power to operate mills that ground wheat and corn. But the river also had its down side, often flooding its banks and destroying life and property. Following a disastrous flood in 1921, the city fathers decided to pave over a horseshoe bend of the riverbed and turn it into an underground storage sewer. Fortunately, a group of concerned citizens, later to become the San Antonio Conservation Society, protested the action and managed to save the scenic river route.

About this time, a young architect, Robert Hugman, revealed his plan to transform the riverbank into a European-style promenade with cobbled walks, flower beds and a festive array of shops, ethnic restaurants and nightclubs. A decade later, River Walk (or Paseo del Rio as the locals call it), became a reality in a 1939-40 beautification program. Additional river channels were dug later to a convention center and shopping mall in time for the HemisFair of 1968.

Today's picturesque River Walk bends and curves its way along a 1-1/2-mile route, a full street level below the busy downtown sector. Stately oaks and cypress trees line the banks, some dating from early Spanish days. Lush greenery, including banana trees, bougainvillea, hibiscus, ferns and palms, suggests a tropical paradise, while tumbling waterfalls and the putt-putt of motorized river barges mask the street noises from above.

It's along the horseshoe bends of the River Walk that one finds the colorful threads that make up the cultural tapestry of San Antonio. Dark-eyed señoritas, descendants of Spanish padres who settled the area, greet customers at boutiques and galleries. Mexican and Irish music, along with country and western melodies, spill out of nightclubs and international-style restaurants. The appetizing aromas of old world cuisine — everything from Greek to French to Chinese food — fill the air. Spiciest of all are the Tex-Mex dishes, longtime favorites of San Antonio residents. Similar to Mexican foods only hotter, Tex-Mex varies from medium-spicy to downright tonsil-tingling.

Thanks to its southwestern location, River Walk can be enjoyed year-round. Summers are hot and dry; winters are normally mild unless a blue norther blows

HOMETOWN PICKS:

- Pralines at **Mi Terra**.
- Homemade flour tortillas at **Alamo Cafe**.
- Spicy south-of-the-border soups served Sunday only at **El Mirador**.
- Anniversary experience extraordinaire: **The Texan Dining Train**.
- Best hamburgers at **Chris Madrid's**.
- Mariachi Mass, Sunday noon, at **Mission San José**.
- **Esquire Bar**, a great stop along the River Walk for a long neck beer.
- **Lucchese Boot Company**: "These boots are made for walking" and purchasing.
- Sunday brunch at the **St. Anthony Hotel**.
- **Floore's Country Store** where Willie Nelson got his start and George Bush gets his homemade bread, sausage and tamales.

COMPILED BY THE EDITORS OF THE AMERICAN WEST

OPPOSITE PAGE: Mission Concepcion, founded in East Texas in 1716, is America's oldest unrestored church.

LEFT: Although famous as a battleground, the Alamo began as a peaceful mission.

BOTTOM LEFT: The Arneson Theater on the edge of La Villita is the setting for many ethnic performances.

in. Spring and fall are, in the boastful words of a native Texan, "just about perfect."

San Antonio's rambling waterway is a magnet for city-wide celebrations, when street parades take to the water. People line the banks, spill over the bridges and crowd onto restaurant patios to watch elaborately decorated floats glide by, often carrying festival kings or queens and their royal courts.

While walking is one of the best ways to discover San Antonio's cultural heritage, a ten-cent trolley ride is a fun alternative. Old-fashioned open-air streetcars, rubber-tired for the 1990s, carry passengers along a downtown route. These brightly painted vehicles, like those seen on San Antonio streets more than 50 years ago, are fitted with wooden seats, leather hand straps and shiny brass rails. The noisy clang-clang of a brass bell signals trolley arrivals at designated stops.

In view of San Antonio's geographic location, practically a next door neighbor of Mexico, it's not surprising a Latin flavor prevails through much of the city. Over half the population of San Antonio is of Hispanic descent. Nowhere does this south-of-the-border spirit come more dramatically alive than at Market Square at the western end of town, site of a public market that dates back to 1840.

On any given day of the year, Market Square vibrates with the sound of troubadours strumming their guitars and folkloric dancers stamping their feet in rhythmic accompaniment

In the Farmers Market section, counters are piled high with fresh produce. Street vendors in a nearby restaurant-lined, open-air plaza tend carts and awning-shaded booths filled with paper flowers, piñatas and straw baskets. At El Mercado, a handsome indoor shopping complex, clay pots, woven ponchos and jewelry vie with leather goods and embroidered Mexican fashions for shopper dollars.

The pungent aromas of Mexican cooking also entice Market Square patrons — tamales, enchiladas, fajitas and the perennial favorite — chili con carne, christened "the brimstone bowl" by northerners. This chili, invented by the Mexicans of San Antonio in the 1800s, contains no tomatoes but lots of beef, beans and chili ancho — a broad red chile regarded as coarse-flavored in Mexico. Cumin seed, garlic and wild marjoram are added for seasoning.

HISTORIC MISSIONS AND SETTLEMENTS

Perhaps the best way to familiarize oneself with San Antonio's beginnings is to visit the historic old missions, 36 founded in Texas by the Spanish between 1680 and 1793. Their purpose — to Christianize the Indians and instruct them in agriculture, stock raising and handicrafts. Five missions sprang up in the San Antonio area, most originally situated on the banks of the San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO

River in a line that extended nine miles south of town.

The first was that battle scarred shrine, the Alamo, founded in 1718 as Mission San Antonio de Valero. In March, 1836, the mission church was the site of a 13-day siege when patriots William Travis, Jim Bowie, Davy Crockett and others fought to the death against Mexican General Lopez de Santa Anna's army. From that time, the Alamo has been known as the "Cradle of Texas Liberty."

Today, the venerable old building with its weathered facade seems small in comparison to the major role it played in Texas history. Maintained as a museum, the Alamo is also designated a state historical site.

The Franciscan fathers also established four "sister" missions along a trail south of the Alamo — Mission Concepción, San Jose, San Juan Capistrano and San Francisco de la Espada. All are still active parish churches and comprise the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park.

Largest of the "sister" missions is Mission San Jose, often referred to as "Queen of Missions" because of its size, the magnificence of its stone sculpture and the fact that it's the best preserved of the entire group.

Mission San Jose today welcomes visitors of all faiths. At noon each Sunday, a colorful mariachi mass draws huge crowds to the domed church. The clear sound of trumpets echoes against high stone walls as a costumed band enters the sanctuary playing and singing traditional Spanish hymns.

La Villita, Spanish for "little village," is a small historic community that today stands in the shadows of downtown office buildings and luxury hotels. For over 200 years, La Villita has occupied this same spot on the east bank of the San Antonio River, earning the distinction of being the city's oldest settlement.

Originally a temporary settlement of Spanish and Mexican squatters, La Villita changed in character in 1819 when a devastating flood destroyed much of the west bank of the river. Families moved to higher, drier ground on the east bank and

OPPOSITE PAGE: The Cos house where Mexican General Martin Perfecto de Cos surrendered to Texas troops.

LEFT: The Steves Homestead is one of the elegant showhouses open to the public in the King William District.

BOTTOM LEFT: La Villita, a re-created village in downtown San Antonio, keeps the city's Hispanic heritage alive.

La Villita became a fashionable neighborhood.

When Texas gained statehood in 1846, immigrants from Germany and France migrated to San Antonio, specifically to La Villita. Adobe homes gave way to houses of cut limestone with Victorian touches. Then, after World War I, La Villita went into a decline, residents moved to other parts of the city and houses began to deteriorate.

It was the late Maury Maverick, former congressman and onetime mayor of San Antonio, who led a 1939 move toward restoration. Maverick's dream was to honor the past by restoring La Villita to its 18th century condition. He also aspired to establish a workshop for the arts and a social center to promote friendship between the U.S. and Latin America.

Walking along the brick-paved streets of La Villita, refreshingly free of automobile traffic, one feels close to the past. At the center of the village is a modest, whitewashed adobe known as the Cos house where General Martin Perfecto de Cos, commander of the Mexican forces besieged by Texans in the fall of 1835, signed the surrender papers. Other buildings house artists and craftspeople who demonstrate their creative skills at this historic site.

On the outer rim of La Villita stands a huge outdoor auditorium—Arneson River Theatre — where many of San Antonio's ethnic celebrations originate. The open-air stage is on the west bank of the San Antonio River; on the opposite shore, tiers of grass-covered steps serve as seating for the audience.

HISTORIC HOMES

Although San Antonio's ethnic mix today is predominantly Hispanic, there was a time in the 1870s when Germans and Alsatians outnumbered Americans, English, Irish and even Mexicans. Wealthy merchants of German descent found the older parts of the city too cramped for their growing families and moved to the south bank of the San Antonio River — an area that was to be known as the King William District.

The name originated with Ernest Altgelt, an ardent admirer of King Wilhelm I of Prussia. Altgelt envisioned an impressive avenue of stately homes that would extend for miles through the heart of the German community — a monument to the Prussian monarch. Then, in 1850, Carl Guenther, a German miller, bought a tract of land and built a mill on the river at the foot of King William Street, thus halting Altgelt's long-range plan.

Elaborate mansions were built on both sides of King William Street and also on neighboring streets within a 26-block area. Many of these restored homes are over 100 years old and represent various architectural styles from Gothic and Greek Revival to Victorian and Italianate. Zoned in 1967 as the state's first historical district, the King William area remains one of San Antonio's most fashionable residential neighborhoods.

While some residents open their

continued on page 30

Cruising down the Rivers

Text & photos by Genevieve Rowles

Riding the current down Idaho rivers is commonly equated with rafting raging white-knuckle rapids. But I had heard that some rivers can refute that image. Drawn by Idaho's 1990 Centennial Celebration, I set out to discover her quieter rivers. I found waterways not soon forgotten, rivers whose mystique beckons seductively.

Western and northern Idaho and the central Idaho primitive areas are scored with rivers tumbling over rocks strewn by a giant's hand. Rivers also run deep and quiet through some of the West's most exciting scenery, past hamlets where gold mining has given place to logging and river running.

Idaho's history is intimately inter-connected with her rivers. Since 1804, when Capt. Meriwether Lewis and Lt. William Clark trekked the mountainous wilderness that would become Idaho, the Snake and the Salmon, fed by a network of lesser rivers, have wound their mystique through Western lore and fable. Today, these rivers' treacherous rapids challenge adventurers for whom braving the churning crest in a rubber raft is the ultimate thrill.

Mindful that one person's thrill is another's nightmare, I sought to discover if one might lazily dip a paddle into an Idaho river, drifting with the current under the summer sun, not rapids but ripples placidly lifting canoe or raft with a gentle motion.

In the course of my summer-long quest, I found that such a sedate river trip is possible. I also found that rivers, no matter how placid, must be respected. Life jackets must be worn. Cameras should be in water-tight containers. Observing a few basic safety rules allows one to enjoy Idaho's quieter rivers with nary a qualm.

My quest began on the Coeur d'Alene, in Idaho's cool, verdant Panhandle. Rising in the pine-clothed Coeur d'Alene National Forest, this friendly river slows in summer, gently meandering through the Coeur d'Alene Mountains before emptying into a limpid lake of the same name.

I reserved a canoe through River Odysseys West (ROW), a river outfitter based in Coeur d'Alene. One fine July morning, my friend Susan and I presented ourselves at Albert's Bar, across the river from Enaville Resort, a historic house of ill repute, now a touristy bar and eatery. ROW representative Kim Thomas provided life jackets and plastic locking tubs for our cameras and lunch. Together with a middle-aged couple and their Pomeranian dog, we rode a bus trailering stacks of red canoes to the put-in point 10 miles upriver (put-in points change according to the river flow, depending on such variables as snow melt and rain in the mountains). After receiving paddling instructions and tying the tubs to cross bars, we were launched on a leisurely six-hour odyssey.

We paddled, floated, watched fat trout etched against rocks under clear water and mama ducks leading V-formations of downy ducklings. We glided past folk a'fishing and rustic summer cottages. Deep swimming holes invited splashing. We watched for the deer and moose that sometimes come down to water. We passed rocks with names like Steamboat, Castle, Maple Cliff. The sun riding high, we pulled the canoe onto a gravel bar, spread our lunch and enjoyed.

Full of lunch and euphoria, we paddled downriver over mini-rapids riffled by a cross-wind. Just as we were congratulating ourselves on our paddling prowess, we were swept sideways against a clump of low willows. In a twinkling, we had tipped! Not to worry. We gained our footing on the shallow river bottom,

Idaho is one of several states celebrating its centennial this year. River rafting is a popular pastime in this western state.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Drifting with the current under the summer sun.

THIS PAGE, TOP: A family takes their tubes from the river at Boise's Ann Morrison Park.

MIDDLE: Readying to get onto the river, Betsy Bowen's guides assemble cargo to load onto rafts while river trippers watch.

BOTTOM: Packing up for a multi-day, outfitter-guided trip down the Lower Salmon River.

righted the canoe, dragged it onto a gravel bar, and opened the tub containing the cameras. They were dry! Launching our craft once more, we floated serenely downstream. It was a delightful river odyssey, spiced with just enough adventure for a summer afternoon.

Some advice: Take your dog, but not your children under four. Expect to get wet. Expect to relax and enjoy.

• • •

Taking my quest southward to the opposite corner of Idaho, I made what might appear to be an unlikely choice: drifting down the Boise River, straight through the center of Idaho's show-case capital city.

The river rolls through the city, bound for union with the Snake. It slices through Boise's pleasant Greenbelt, connected by numerous bridges. Evenings and weekends, Boiseans converge on their river with inflatable rafts and tubes.

Susan and I, wishing to share in this extraordinary urban adventure, called to reserve a two-person raft. Outfitted with raft, inflatable pillows, paddles, life jackets and a cooler, we boarded a bus waiting outside Wheels R Fun's crazy-funky stand to take us to the put-in point six miles upstream at Discovery Park. We lined up with other urban river rats to inflate our raft with an air hose. Last minute instructions from the Wheels R Fun bus driver (stay in the center of the stream, ride the smoothest water down the rapids),and we were off.

The later the season, the lower and smoother the river. Boiseans raft approximately from mid-May to mid-September, but from August on is best if you wish to avoid stronger currents.

For three hours, we floated serenely on a gentle current, over occasional mini-rapids. We admired a posing blue heron, were followed by begging ducks, watched farm fields give way to homes, parkland, handsome college buildings, and finally city high-rises.

We did have some dicey moments when the raft swamped after we took a wrong turn, leaving us flopping on shore, an indication that more signs are needed to direct rafters unfamiliar with the river.

Floating the Boise isn't exactly floating "up a lazy river," but it is tons of fun on a hot day.

Some advice: Expect to get wet. Wear sneakers for walking on the stony river bottom. Bring along a lock bag for your cameras. We found the inflatable pillows difficult to manage, as they slid out from under us. Bring less slippery pillows, or ask for a raft with fixed cross-pieces. Best not to bring children under five. Follow other rafters instead of striking out alone.

• • •

Getting a fix on Idaho rivers would be incomplete without experiencing a multi-day outfitter-guided river trip. Peter Grubb and Betsy Bowen, the capable husband-wife team that owns River Odysseys West, recommended their August Lower Salmon trip as the quintessential quiet river experience.

Betsy gathered us together at Lewiston's Ramada Inn on the eve of our departure, 21 strangers who would float, swim and eat together for five days, sleeping on sand beaches under the stars. She gave us ROW mugs and issued day gear lock bags, watertight duffles into which we must cram sleeping bags and clothing, and super-tight ammunition boxes for our cameras.

Early next morning, Betsy herded us into a yellow school bus for the ride to Pine Bar, our put-in place. Waiting on the river were five other guides and the rafts that would carry us down the Lower Salmon to its confluence with the Snake, then into Hell's Canyon and take-out at Heller Bar.

For me, perhaps for most Westerners, the Salmon has the allure of an unspoiled wilderness. Except for the Yellowstone, it is the longest undammed river in the U.S. Its rapids pose white water challenges. Rising in the Sawtooth Range of Central Idaho, it branches across Idaho in a loose embrace, cleansing its forests and primitive areas with fresh cool waters.

Perhaps more than other rivers, the Salmon traces Idaho's history. These were Nez Perce fishing waters. The Army chased Chief Joseph's band across it in the tragic war of 1870. Chinese, mining hydraulically for gold too scarce for others to bother with, built crude rock shelters along it. We saw piles of rock left from these mines, explored the remains of rock houses. We floated 70 miles, skirting the Nez Perce Indian Reservation on the rich Camas Prairie. Primitive peoples predating the Nez Perce lived in caves near the Salmon's lifegiving waters. Eons earlier, the Earth's birth throes thrust up rock formations, known as columnar basalt, to form the canyon through which we floated on the crest of history. The Salmon is pristine. We strove to keep it so, carrying out all refuse, even ashes from our campfires.

We were afloat before noon, newly hatched river rats in bright orange life jackets. We were distributed between three oar rafts rowed by capable guides (another two carried cargo), a six-person paddle raft, and six rubber kayaks dubbed Daring Duckies.

We soon came to know each other with the trust of seasoned friends. Our guides, responsible college graduates in their early thirties, have the river in their blood.

That first day we eased in, drifting on quiet water over mild rapids.

Lunch was a magnificent cold collation on a pristine beach, presaging superb meals to come. That evening on another beach, a gale tumbled my tent into the river, much to my embarrassment. I had neglected to place rocks inside. Strong swimmers rescued it, so no harm was done.

As we watched the guides prepare a fine fish dinner, workaday stresses began to slide away. Each day, we further relaxed, until at last the river and unspoiled nature had cleansed our souls.

We grownups took to the river as joyfully as the kids. We swam in deep placid 73-degree pools, sometimes grasping a line and drifting with a raft. We played with the Daring Duckies, the most intrepid riding over rapids, occasionally pitching out to float downstream buoyed by life jackets, until a guide plucked us out. "Rats" craving white water rode the rapids in the paddle raft, screaming with delight as it dipped into troughs and water washed over them. The less intrepid rode the oar boats serenely over rapids, senses of adventure satisfied by sheets of spray. Mostly, we drifted lazily downstream.

Some of us rowed ahead to photograph friends and family riding the rapids. A few of the men fished. The fourth day, we oohed and aahed as we floated Blue Canyon, held in thrall by the eerie light cast on the water by blue rock walls. We "bathed" under a waterfall in a natural "bathtub." We gathered driftwood, brought downriver in spring, for our campfires. We put away tons of food prepared with amazing efficiency in beach "kitchens." Each meal outdid the last, winding up in a last-morning crescendo of eggs Benedict and champagne.

The days were full of fun (and sunblock), but for me the nights will linger longest. The first night, tents popped up like strange toadstools. By the third night, everyone had decided to let the stars be their roof.

Even more memorable was waking to watch the sun spilling molten gold over the hills as a gentle breeze caressed my face and the river sang a siren song. It is a siren song that will draw me back, again and again, to succumb to the rivers' enchantment.

My watery adventures proved that Idaho rivers offer enchantment for every taste, in the proper place and season. But remember, Idaho is the West. She who expects a totally tamed West whistles down the wrong river.

Genevieve Rowles is a travel writer whose work takes her all over the country. See her article on Denver's Queen Anne Inn in Journey's End.

OPPOSITE PAGE, FAR LEFT: Newly hatched river rats in bright orange life jackets navigate the river.

OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT: The less intrepid serenely ride the rapids.

THIS PAGE: Riding these rapids is just enough of a thrill.

R.O.W. INFORMATION AND THE NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

Call or write River Odysseys West for river trip information: P.O. Box 579, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814, (208) 765-0841. Discuss your wishes with Betsy, Peter or a member of their office staff. ROW offers trips on several Idaho rivers, ranging from a day on Class IV white water to five days of family floating.

The five-day trip that I took is also offered in four days, the difference being that a jet boat takes you out from the confluence of the Salmon and the Snake on the fourth day, eliminating an often hot fifth day float on the Snake. That river, heavily used and less restricted, is very different from the Salmon in character.

Lewiston, with its odiferous paper mill, is less than inviting. But the nearby Nez Perce museum and headquarters of the Nez Perce National Historic Park offers a fascinating look into a rich history that includes the first missionaries to the Northwest, Nez Perce lore, and insight into the 1870 Nez Perce War. Adjacent Spaulding has a shaded riverside picnic park, plus a cemetery and other reminders of the missionary era. Roadside historical markers across Camas Prairie provide additional insight.

If you are camping, head for Winchester Lake State Park, 11 miles southeast of Lewiston, just off Hwy. 95. Six dollars gets you a forested lakeside camp site and good fishing.

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO STAY AND DINE IN THE SILVER VALLEY

Plan on spending at least three days in Silver Valley, longer if you wish to visit nearby Coeur d'Alene on the lake. To reserve a canoe, write River Odysseys West, P.O. Box 579, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814. (208) 765-0841.

If you wish to camp, head for Bumblebee, a National Forest Service campground (handicap access). Exit I-90 at Kingston (use this exit to pick up your canoe at Albert's Bar) and head north for seven miles. Watch for signs.

Ken Henry, a talented Indian artist, has a gallery adjacent to his **Country General Store** just north of Enaville Resort. The **Third Generation Restaurant** in the hamlet of Cataldo (Exit 40) is operated by owner/chef Virgil Miller on the site of his grandfather's 1930s general store. The off-the-tourist-track eatery, popular with locals, is the kind of honest restaurant you hope to find while traveling, but seldom do. We sipped a good wine, sampled a first rate salad bar with homemade soup and muffins, feasted on perfect prime rib and grilled fish, topped off with Mom Miller's cherry-rhubarb pie. The bill: $23.

If you wish a bed & breakfast experience whisking you back 80 years, combined with a taste of mining town history, hie to Wallace. The entire downtown area is on the National Registry of Historic Sites. The elegantly restored, circa 1908 **Jameson Hotel's** refurbished third floor is a charming b&b. A double room, plus a continental breakfast in the Jameson Restaurant, will set you back $34.50. Luncheons and dinners feature down-home fare at moderate prices. The Jameson Hotel, 304 Sixth St., Wallace, ID 83873. (208) 556-1554.

The turreted **Northern Pacific Depot Railroad Museum** is easily Wallace's focal point. After touring the museum, settle into a horse-drawn carriage for a 30-minute clip-clop through town (Adults $5, children $3). Or pick up a walking tour map. The **Sixth Street Melodrama** ($6) is a hiss-and-boo production presented nightly in summer. If you wish to gain insight into Wallace, and how a declining silver town turned around, visit **Wallace Corner**, a gift and antique shop, to chat with proprietor Dick Caron.

The **Sierra Silver Mine** ($4.50) is the only silver mine tour in the Northwest. Guides demonstrate by-gone and present-day mining methods with working tools.

Visiting the restored **Cataldo Mission Church and Parish House** at Old Mission State Park will give you a generous slice of area history. It is decorated with handwork that Indian parishioners contributed to the church's construction.

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO STAY AND DINE IN BOISE

For bed & breakfast informality presented with élan, book a room at Tom and Phyllis Lupher's circa 1904 **Idaho Heri- tage Inn**. If you fly in, Tom will pick you up at the airport in his vintage red 1950 Plymouth convertible. The antique-filled house (the Luphers also own an antique shop) was the home of the late Sen. Frank Church. His father-in-law, former Gov. Chase Clark, used the house as his governor's mansion. As friendly as next-door neighbors, Phyllis and Tom will treat you to a breakfast tray in your room. Rates: $45 to $75. Write The Idaho Heritage Inn, 109 West Idaho St., Boise, ID 83702, or call (208) 342-8066.

The **Idanha Hotel**, a turreted beauty at Tenth & Main, that opened to much fanfare in 1901, has an ambiance recalling those elegant days. Early photographs on display reveal that everyone who was anyone, including notables as disparate as Sally Rand and Teddy Roosevelt, thronged its lobby and ate in its dining room. The hotel even has a ghost! Rates from $45. The Idanha Hotel, P.O. Box 1538, Boise, ID 83701, or call (208) 342-3611.

Peter Schott's New American Restaurant, adjacent to the Idanha lobby, offers what may be the most sophisticated dining experience available in any Western city. Pricey, but so worthwhile!

Onati, an authentic Basque restaurant at 620 West Idaho Street, reflects that the Boise area has the nations' largest Basque population. Owner/Chef Jesus Alcelay cooks up lamb, croquetas, fish and other Basque specialties. Dinner for two with wine and a distinctively Basque dessert runs about $45.

For classic Italian cuisine, hie to **Victor Asplazu's Renaissance**, downstairs in the handsome historic Belgravia building at the corner of Main & 5th. The prices are surprisingly reasonable for this level of dining pleasure. Dinner for two with wine and a sinful dessert runs about $40. ❖

Scouting Antlers

Text & photos by Susan Bayer Ward

Most scout troops across the United States sell cookies to raise funds, and pile up points in the good-deed department by assisting little old ladies across busy intersections. Not so the Boy Scout troops of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. They scavenge the area for unwieldly elk antlers, drag them home and sell them at auction. The result of this yearly endeavor — in 1989 they made a whopping $111,000 — has garnered them the unofficial title of "richest Boy Scout troop in America."

This annual, one-of-a-kind auction, held the third Saturday in May, contains all the elements of high drama — oriental high-bidders who fly in expressly for the event, mountain men aplenty ready to share a yarn and big-time camera crews from top magazines and television networks eager to capture this colorful, singular event in print and on celluloid. But, it's what the Boy Scouts do with their earnings that tops off the day; 90 percent of this "bone booty" is funneled back into the National Elk Refuge to feed some 8,000 elk who winter just outside town. In this cynical, "me-first" era of man versus wildlife, the elk antler auction is a truly heartening sight, for everybody wins — man and beast alike.

This happy circumstance blossomed out of a potential tragedy that was initiated hundreds of years ago when uncounted thousands of elk migrated down from the high country in the fall to the valley now called Jackson Hole to seek winter forage. (An impressive 25,000 were spotted in the latter part of the nineteenth century.) But, by the end of the 1800s, farmers and ranchers were flooding into Jackson Hole where they built homesteads right across the elks' age-old migration route.

Soon, push came to shove, and beleaguered elk, frantic for winter grazing land and vying with growing numbers of domestic livestock for food, broke into ranchers' grain stores for desperately-needed fodder. To add to the beasts' misery, the winters of 1909, 1910 and 1911 proved unusually harsh and the elk starved to death in droves.

James M. Griffin, Assistant Refuge Manager of the National Elk Refuge, recalls the bad old days. "I talked to a woman who used to live out here and homesteaded on the refuge...She tells how her dad used to post her brother up on some of these haystacks with a rifle to shoot at the elk to drive them away from their hay.

"There was a quote, in something I read, that said you could step on the carcasses of elk and walk for a mile without ever stepping off. And that gives you an idea of how severe it was."

The farmers and ranchers weren't quite the ogres they appeared, however; though fighting for their own survival, they attempted, in a disorganized fashion, to feed the starving animals. But, mindful they alone could not alleviate the escalating elk carnage, they petitioned the government for help. After investigation and thought, Congress set aside 2,700 acres for an elk refuge in 1912. Today, the National Elk Refuge has grown to 25,000 acres and has reopened to the migrating elk a good quarter of their original range. Some 8,800 now winter in their old stomping grounds for six months of the year, and for about three months — the harshest — the rangers put out alfalfa pellets to help the animals survive.

Thirty tons of food a day are needed to feed these browsers over a period of some 70 to 90 days a year — at a cost that exceeds $680,000. The money that goes to support America's last great migrating herd of wildlife comes from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and, of course, the Boy Scout troops of Jackson Hole.

This annual Scout project begins the last Saturday in April when the male elk have shed their antlers on the refuge and headed back into their high summer range in the Tetons and South Yellowstone. The young Scouts, the only group officially allowed on the refuge to collect the prized antler horns, eagle-eye the ground for the tell-tale, white-tipped racks that signify a set of salable antlers. Huffing and puffing, they lug the racks, which can weigh up to 30 pounds, through the sage to waiting trucks.

Last year, by sundown, over 4,839 pounds of antler horn had been gathered and stowed away alongside another 3,000 pounds rangers had collected during the year.

Four days before the auction, Scout leaders and assistants rendezvous at a secret hideaway (elk antlers are in great demand and there is some fear of theft) to sort and bundle horns. There is method in the bundling process: good "button" antlers — buttons being the rounded, butt

Wyoming is one of several states celebrating its centennial this year. The following article depicts a unique feature of this western state.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Crowds of people flock to the auctioneer's stand on the east side of the town square in Jackson, Wyoming, waiting for the start of the elk antler auction.

Big Stephe" Stephens, former Jackson marshal, has attended 27 elk antler auctions.

At 8 a.m. sharp, all the elk antler horn to be sold is lined up along the east side of the Jackson town square so that bidders can look over the "merchandise" prior to the bidding which starts at 10 a.m. Note the elk antler arch in the background.

A Boy Scout carts each bundle of antlers to the auctioneer's podium, then the bidding begins. In the background — local rancher and auctioneer, Earl Hardeman.

Peter Schwendeman, who has helped at the auction for 9 years, sorts antlers, then weighs the bundles at the secret site prior to the auction.

Approximately 8,800 elk come down from their high mountain summer pasture, onto the National Elk Refuge.

The "buttons" of an elk's antlers are prized by artists who fashion expensive, inlaid belt buckles from them.

end of the rack — are bound together for artists who will buy them to create fancy, inlaid belt buckles. Other horns are sorted, weighed and taped together according to age, color, similar size and formation that will interest buyers who plan to fashion them into chandeliers, tables, chairs, door handles, cribbage boards, or use them for scrimshaw. Some are massed for bulk sale; the bidders who jet in from China and Korea are especially interested in these which are pulverized and sold, at heady prices, for health elixirs and aphrodisiacs.

Finally, the last Saturday in May rolls around, and lines of the bundled antler horns are put on display on the east side of Jackson's town square by 8 a.m. sharp so potential buyers can poke, feel and ruminate on the unusual merchandise.

Respected old-time rancher and auctioneer, Earl Hardeman, gavels the crowd to silence at 10 a.m. and asks the first Boy Scout duo to lug up a bundle of horns for bid. And so it goes, all morning long and into the afternoon, as sweating Scouts labor under antler loads often bigger than they are, while artists, mountain men, oriental businessmen, tourists and just plain folk bid for a bundle of precious antler horn or simply enjoy the show.

At the end of the day, after a raucous and eventful auction, lots of neighborly chatting and ribbing and the annual Dr. Don MacLeod Historical Society Cookout, the proceeds are totted up and 7,839 pounds of elk antlers have changed hands, garnering the Scouts a staggering $111,000.

Elk antler horn is now big business, indeed, but the refuge rangers are more concerned with educating the public to the beauty and wonder of the world's second largest antlered animal (the moose is the largest). Thus, from December to March, visitors to Jackson — many who come for the skiing and stumble on the phenomenon of the elk refuge by chance — can tour the site in whisper-quiet, horse-drawn sleighs and gape at the awesome, antediluvian spectacle of thousands of haunch-to-haunch elk browsing and bugling, as jets of steam rise from their frosty nostrils.

A visitor center on the refuge offers a slide show, movie, exhibits and information about these tawny gray (their winter coloration) deer before and after the sleighs take off for a 45-minute swing across the refuge. Happily, the sleighs can get quite close to the animals, though the well-trained driver-guides are always careful not to disturb the grazing elk.

The refuge is also a haven for a host of high country birds and animals, including moose, bighorn sheep, coyotes, badgers, muskrats and rare trumpeter swans who faced extinction until they were reintroduced here in 1938. Today, 25 can be seen on refuge waters.

"Trying to educate people about the elk is exciting," Jim Griffin says.

More than once, he allows, families who have spent thousands of dollars on a Jackson Hole ski vacation claim their unanticipated visit to the refuge "was the best five dollars we spent on our entire holiday."

Griffin and his fellow rangers revel in the opportunity to enlighten the site's one-half million annual visitors about the country's sole elk refuge and its inhabitants, who come and go as they please, and now thrive thanks to an awareness of their needs, and a healthy dollop of dough from the Boy Scouts of Jackson Hole.

Susan Bayer Ward is an Illinois-based travel writer.

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For more information on the National Elk Refuge, and on the winter sleigh rides, contact:

Refuge Manager, National Elk Refuge
P.O. Box C, Jackson, WY 83001,
307-733-9212.

For more information on the Elk Antler Auction, contact the refuge or the

Jackson Hole Area
Chamber of Commerce,
P.O. Box E, Jackson, WY 83001
307-733-3316. ❖

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homes for house tours, two dwellings are open to the public year-round — the Steves Homestead and the Guenther house. The former, built in 1876 by German immigrant Edward Steves, is a Greek Revival showplace with mansard roof and multi-arched facade, handsomely furnished with Victorian-era antiques. The Guenther house, built in 1860, is the restored home of the founder of the still operating Pioneer Flour Mills.

Anyone curious as to how aristocratic Spanish families lived in Texas in the 18th century can step into the past at the Spanish Governor's Palace on Military Plaza, an elegant old adobe with 3-foot-thick walls, beamed ceilings and heavily carved wooden doors completed in 1749.

Originally constructed as part of the Presidio (fort) de San Antonio de Bejar which guarded the Alamo, it served as the official residence of the presidial captain.

Authentically restored in 1931 (and named a National Historic Landmark in 1970), the palace consists of 10 spacious rooms, including a family chapel with rare devotional relics and a "gran sala." Furnishings throughout were carefully chosen by the San Antonio Conservations Society to reflect not only the elegance of 18th century Spain, but also the sparse existence of life in early-day Texas.

Favorite retreat of many who visit the palace is an inner patio with pebbled walks, a central fountain and lush plantings of palms and banana trees. There's even a wishing well where, according to vintage ghost tales, a veiled woman is sometimes seen on a moonlit night counting the coins tossed by hopeful travelers.

Charlotte Garner is a freelance writer/photographer based in Mountain View, California.

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INSIDE SAN ANTONIO

By the Editors
of The American West

The following list of recommendations was compiled by the editors of The American West *after extensive interviews with residents of and frequent visitors to San Antonio.*

No advertising fees have been charged or paid for inclusion in this list.

The area code for San Antonio is 512.

PLACES TO STAY

The history of **La Mansión del Rio Hotel** is just a small part of its charm. The building that houses part of the hotel was begun in 1852 as a two-story school. Over the years, two more floors were added and small additions were made, but only minor renovations were needed to turn it into a hotel. On the bank of the San Antonio River, La Mansión del Rio is withinwalking distance of the Alamo and has 340 rooms, some with balconies overlooking the river and two restaurants, Capistrano and Las Canarias, the latter on the River Walk. *800-531-7208, 225-2581.*

The Crockett Hotel is located 10 steps from the Alamo, across the street from Rivercenter. The hotel has a wonderful pool, rooftop hot tub and sundeck. Breakfast and dinner are available in the Landmark Cage where singing servers entertain Thursday throught Saturday. In Ernie's Bar & Grill, casual lunch and dinner are served in a "Cheers-like" atmosphere. With only 202 rooms, the Crockett exudes a feeling of intimacy. *800-531-5537, 225-6500.*

Still another Texas historical landmark is the **Sheraton Gunter Hotel**, constructed on the site of the 1837 Frontier Inn that served the stage coach lines and early pioneers traveling west. Acclaimed as "the most modern hotel between New Orleans and Los Angeles" when it first opened in 1909, it has been completely restored and rejuvenated. A beautifully landscaped sun deck and the oversized, heated swimming pool enhance a stay here. *227-3241.*

The Wyndham Hotel San Antonio is a 19-story, polished granite tower just 10 miles from San Antonio International Airport. With 328 guest rooms and suites, the Wyndham can accommodate large conventions easily. After a day of hectic meetings, you can relax in either indoor or outdoor swimming pools or a well-equipped weight and exercise room, then dance the night away at Fantasies, where neon lights whirl above you. *800-822-4200, 691-8888.*

According to the 1985 *Guinness Book of World Records*, the **Fairmount Hotel** is the largest building ever moved in one piece. About four years ago, the hotel was relocated next to La Villita Historic District and underwent a $4 million renovation, making it a supremely comfortable place to stay. *224-8800.* The **Hyatt Regency**, on the River Walk, is a busy, bustling place with an atrium in the center and 632 rooms with views. *800-233-1234, 222-1234.* **The St. Anthony Hotel** is not only a Texas and National Historic Landmark but is within two blocks of the River Walk. Known for its hospitality and gracious service, the St. Anthony attracts movie stars and big shots looking to hide out. Locals meet for cocktails and live music at Peacock Alley. *227-4392.*

RESTAURANTS

La Buca (the cave) imitates an ancient Italian tradition. During the middle ages, villagers throughout Italy socialized and ate in caves or grottos. Owner Ernesto Gomez makes extensive use of stone, carved wood, wrought iron and plaster and a wall of ceramic plates that are reproductions of 400 years of Italian ceramics. Following Italian tradition, La Buca features an antipasto table and ducks and chickens turning on an open rotisserie. The duck crepes appetizers are legendary.

Rosario's is said to be Barbara Bush's favorite place to eat when she's in town. Don't let the building — once a brake shop/garage — dissuade you from sampling its terrific Mexican food. The char-boiled shrimp with peppers, tomatoes and onions is often mentioned by locals.

For consistently good Tex-Mex, try either location of **Piedra's Negras de la Noche**. Authentic Mexican food in a quaint, homelike setting is available at **La Calesa**. **Los Barrios** combines Tex-Mex, authentic South American and Mexican cuisines for rave reviews from the locals *and Esquire* magazine. Soft Tacos à la Diana with chicken, guacamole and sour cream are irresistible, as is the *carne guisado en salsa verde* (diced meat in a tomato/onion sauce with peppers). Friday through Sunday, live music adds to the restaurant's charm.

The **Barn Door** opened in 1953 and remains a San Antonio tradition offering mouth-watering, homemade rolls and pies that can be purchased for take-out. **Little Rhein Steak House** has succulent steaks and a beautiful patio overlooking the River Walk, but if you're in the mood for seafood, go someplace else. **Chris Madrid's** is a friendly, family-run business with a delightful patio where a cold beer or margarita is the perfect complement to the best burger in town. For down-home atmosphere and great barbeque, try **Bob's Smoke House**.

Two musts on Josephine Street are the **Liberty Bar,** known for delicious homemade pies and breads and possibly the best vinaigrette salad dressing you've ever tasted, and **Josephine Cafe**, serving steak and chicken without frills, enhanced by a good bar and a jukebox. **Twin Sisters**, open only for lunch, is a health-conscious place serving sandwiches, soups and salads, and baked-on-the-premises fudge cakes and oatmeal cookies to die for.

Hung Fong's is the city's oldest Chinese restaurant. The Huey family recently celebrated the restaurant's 50th anniversary. **Thai Kitchen** serves up authentic Thai cuisine and **Niki's Toyko Inn** offers the best sushi in Texas. **Chinatown Cafe**, in the Lincoln Heights Shop-

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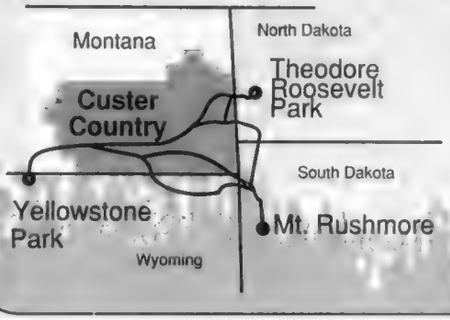

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Produced in cooperation with the Wyoming Travel Commission

The Legend Is Calling You...

LETTERS

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used to say: "If it ain't broke, don't fiks (sic) it," and William Reddeford Walker often remarked: "If they ain't no need fer (sic) it, why do it?"

Those two hardy pioneers would have admired your courageous acknowledgement that 50 percent of your mail is from contras against the move away from Western lore and history, even though they might have thought it magazinal suicide if they noted that, by extrapolation, 50 percent of your subscribers will not be renewing! But all frontiersmen loved a gamble.

As for me, I'm going to stay until the bitter end and ride off into the sunset with you, for your mailbag makes interesting reading.

Nevertheless, all the bes (sic)
For the newly difrent
American Wes (sic).

Charles S. Park
Green Valley, AZ

Good Quality

As a recent subscriber of your magazine, I read with interest your editorial in the December, 1989 issue. I also looked at the preliminary schedule for the next three years. My first opinion is to extend my subscription. As a resident of North Dakota, I am looking ahead two years when you do the story on Bismarck, North Dakota. But I do feel that St. Louis is too far east to be considered as part of The American West.

I would like to see you do a story about The Gadsden Hotel in Douglas, Arizona. It has its own uniqueness and is situated in a very historical part of the West. If you have done a story on this hotel I am not aware of it.

If you can keep up the quality of the December, 1989 issue I will be a long-time subscriber.

Allen Jacobson
Tolley, N.D.

(Editor's Note: We like your idea and will run a story on that grand hotel in a future issue).

Another Opinion

What has happened to the Good *American West* magazine? The recent issues are nothing but fluff. Just received the February issue and it's about the worst I've ever seen. Who cares about big cities, we want Western stories. I'm so disappointed in these last few issues. Please, try and print something that is *worth* reading. Leave out those fashion ads and city pictures.

Print my letter, I'm sure many will agree to it.

Lloyd Ronald Stepan
Pawnee City, NE

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Chronicle West

1990 March YESTERDAY • TODAY • TOMORROW April 1990

LIFE IN THE OLD WEST

Courtesy of the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"Herds of Bison and Elk on the Upper Missouri" by Karl Bodmer.

The Prince and the Painter

by Helen Clark

It was very early in the morning of Aug. 28, 1833, when the inhabitants of Fort McKenzie, located near the mouth of the Marias River in what is now Montana, were awakened by loud gunshots. Grabbing wraps and weapons, the entire populace ran to the parapet to determine what was taking place. The scene below was a wild one. A party of approximately 600 Assiniboine and Cree Indians were trying to annihilate a much smaller group of Blackfeet Indians who had set up camp the day before not far from the stockade. From unknown sources, the Blackfeet had procured "fire water," and, after a night of drunken revelry, were sleeping

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Prince and Painter

Courtesy of the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"Interior of the Hut of a Mandan Chief" by Swiss artist Karl Bodmer.

off their hangovers. It was too good an opportunity for their enemies to pass up. The fort commandant ordered his men to fire over the heads of the feuding Indians.

The rapid volley from the fort was all the persuasion the Assiniboines and Crees needed to quit the area. The battle, though short-lived, was an exciting experience for two guests at the fort, Swiss-born artist Karl Bodmer of France and German Prince Alexander Phillip Maximilian of Wied Neuwied, who were on a scientific expedition in the New World. The prince was gathering botanical and zoological specimens for his private collection and keeping a journal of the trip, preparatory to writing a book which Karl Bodmer would illustrate. The artist was making sketches and paintings along the way. Bodmer, seizing the opportunity of a battle at firsthand, ultimately produced a painting of the event which had taken place before his very eyes. Full of action and color, the painting hangs today in the Smithsonian Institution.

A few days before the battle, a few of the Blackfeet had consented to sit for the artist. One was "Bear Chief." Many Indians were too superstitious to pose, fearing that, if they sat for the artist, "something" of themselves went into the painting. However, Bear Chief believed that, because he had posed for Bodmer, he had gained "good medicine," which had saved his life in the battle with the Assiniboines & Crees. All the Indians then wanted Bodmer to paint their likenesses. It was a hey-day for the young man.

Karl Bodmer was born in Riesback, Switzerland, in 1809. As a youth, he studied painting and engraving under his uncle, Johann Jakob Meyer, later continuing his studies in Paris.

Prince Maximilian, "stocky and middle-aged," was fascínated by the Far West, an uncharted empire where there were still aborigines to discover and plants, birds, animals, minerals never before seen by white men.

The duo of Bodmer and the prince proved highly competent, working as a team and respecting each other's talents. We know how they looked, for Bodmer did a delightful painting of his patron and himself as they appeared when meeting some Indians at a Missouri River trading post. Both men hold long rifles in their arms. Bodmer wears a high, stove-pipe hat on his head, his artist's bag slung from a strap over one shoulder. The prince sports a smart chapeau, but is all business as the two men intensely study the Indians and one of their handsome horses. This painting is also in the Smithsonian Institution.

That the prince correctly anticipated the requirements of such an expedition helped guarantee its success. That Bodmer had youth — he was only 24 when the two men started their adventure — was also a factor in their success. Sailing for the United States in the spring of 1833, the men spent some time in the East, making preparations, including acquiring adequate background information, plus a full inventory of supplies.

Reaching St. Louis in March of 1833, they

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Courtesy of the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma

"Fort Union on the Missouri" as portrayed by artist Karl Bodmer.

were greeted by William Clark of the famed Lewis and Clark Expedition and Indian Agent Benjamin O'Fallon. Some biographers contend they also met artist George Catlin, who had completed a trip up the Missouri one year earlier. O'Fallon took them home to view the Catlins hanging in his house.

Red-haired William Clark had much information to impart to the two explorers. Biographer Paul Herndon tells us that Clark "arranged for Bodmer to paint portraits of members of a delegation of Sauk and Fox Indians who were visiting St. Louis at the time."

The two travelers booked passage that spring aboard the steamboat, *Yellowstone*, owned by the American Fur Company. This was only the boat's second voyage up the wild Missouri, its first having had Catlin aboard.

Leaving St. Louis, the steamboat made its way slowly up the river, stopping often for wood to fuel the furnaces that generated the steam which moved the paddle-wheels. The stop-overs were often at timbered places where Indians gathered to watch in fascination the "magic" of the pale faces. Bodmer was able to study at firsthand these children of nature and to capture them in watercolors and black-and-white drawings. In return for their posing, the Indians were rewarded with gifts from the sizable quantity of trade goods that Maximilian and Bodmer carried.

It took seven weeks to travel 1,500 miles to Fort Pierre in what is now South Dakota, where the artist was able to paint many Indians.

The men then boarded the steamboat, *Assiniboine*. Again, progress was slow. Herndon tells us that they reached Fort Clark on June 18th. Here Bodmer had the opportunity to paint the Mandans. One of Bodmer's most beautiful paintings is done among them.

Entitled "The Interior of the Hut of a Mandan Chief," it is done in warm browns and light tans, with blue sky showing through the opening at the top of the lodge. The family is gathered in the center of the dwelling, their life necessities surrounding them: decorated war and hunting spears, war shields, paddles, stone mortars and pestles, water baskets, a back rest, hides, robes, two dogs. The chief is passing a peace pipe to a fellow Indian. The painting has realism, color, authenticity.

After five days at Fort Pierre, the expedition continued on the *Assiniboine* to Fort Union, as far north as artist Catlin had gone. Maximilian and Bodmer, however, ventured farther, procuring passage on the American Fur Company's keelboat, the *Flora*.

Writes Herndon, "As they traveled, Maximilian made comparisons between his own observations and the notes made by Lewis and Clark that he carried. After entering the rough terrain upstream from the Milk River, so called because it is the color of mare's milk, Bodmer painted a number of landscapes."

Now the party entered land controlled by the powerful Blackfeet. Fort McKenzie was a welcome haven for the explorers. The weather was beautiful and the men accomplished much, but summer was ending. The prince wished to

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Prince and Painter

Courtesy of the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma

"Bison Dance of the Mandan Indians." Artist Karl Bodmer witnessed the dance which was performed to draw the buffalo to the hunters.

winter at the fort, but the inhabitants prevailed upon him to give up the notion because of agitation between the Indian factions, and the exceedingly severe winters. The stockade staff built a boat to take the party downstream. On Sept. 14, they departed, making fine progress down the Missouri River to Fort Union, where they arrived 13 days later.

Here, friendly Crees and Assiniboines gladly posed for Bodmer. The prince found plenty of flora and fauna to study. We have an excellent idea of Fort Union because Bodmer painted it. Later, he would do an engraving in color called "Fort Union on the Missouri." He also made many sketches of the terrain around the fort, as well as of the stockade and the tepees in its vicinity, with Indians coming and going.

But time passed all too swiftly as the men hunted buffalo and watched the Indians curing hides and fashioning implements for the hunt. By Oct. 30th, it was time to leave for Fort Clark, where they arrived on Nov. 9th. None could know that Bodmer would paint the last pictures of the Mandans who shortly would be wiped out by a smallpox epidemic.

One of Bodmer's most dramatic and beautiful works, entitled "Buffalo Dance of the Mandan," portrays the men dressed to resemble buffalo, their heads bearing the horns and fur of the shaggy animals, their bodies painted to resemble them.

Another painting entitled "Mandan Village," shows the lodges of the Indians on a bluff overlooking the Missouri. In the foreground are small buffalo boats and the Indians, at their paddles, are dragging driftwood from the water to be dried and used for firewood.

Bodmer sketched many of the Indian's elaborate ceremonies while Maximilian interviewed "old" Toussaint Charbonneau who had made the trip to the Pacific Coast with the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

After wintering at Fort Clark, the two men made their way to St. Louis, reaching it in May of 1834. Then, by stage, canalboat and steamer, they went back to New York City and Europe.

Maximilian's book, *Travels in the Interior of North America*, was first published in 1839. Bodmer's work supplemented the text in a separate folio, the *Atlas*. Its polychrome plates brought attention and fame to the artist. The *Reader's Encyclopedia, The American West*, edited by Howard R. Lamer, states that, "The 427 original watercolors executed at the time of the expedition and shortly afterward were discovered at Newwied Castle following World War II and now form the basis of the Maximilian-Bodmer Collection at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska."

Bodmer never returned to the United States. He painted with Millet and Rousseau and began exhibiting in the Paris Salon in 1836. He died at 84, a celebrated artist, but the Old World had forgotten about his work in the New World. It is, however, for his work among a primitive people that he is remembered and celebrated today.

Helen Clark has been a published freelance writer for 40 years.

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A Family Album Revisited

No one knew where he was until he arrived ...with his bride, Minnie Barker.

In the first issue of the "new" *American West* (October, 1989), we ran a photograph in this space taken on the wedding day of Alice (Allie) Barker and Troupe Turner in which the young couple was pictured on the roof of the bride's family home with other family members standing on the ground below. The photo was submitted to us by the bride's granddaughter, Beth R. Kiteley.

To our delight, that photograph inspired two more letters from other members of the Barker family. First, Aileen Barker Rickard, great niece of Minnie, one of Allie's sisters, wrote to ask if we would like to see a photo of her great aunt as a young woman with her first baby, Alice (named after Allie, the bride in our original picture). Then Pearl Barker Paterson, daughter of Allie's brother Charlie, offered us another, more formal photograph taken on the day of Allie and Troupe's wedding.

The Barker family is portrayed above in a more traditional wedding pose. Standing in the back row are the groom, Troupe Turner; the bride, Allie Barker; her sisters, Minnie and Ida; and her brothers, Ben and Charlie. In the front row, Pearl stands beside her father, Squire Leander Barker, who has removed his hat and pinned on his medal. The youngest Barker, little Elliott, stands between his father and his mother, Priscilla Jane, while another sister, Mattie, holds her doll and looks solemnly at the camera. In her letter, Pearl Barker Paterson recalls the day: "I

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REMEMBERING THE PAST

asked my father if that (the medal) was for having the most children but he said it was for having the best looking." Priscilla Jane and Squire Leander had three more children after this picture was taken — Grace, Marion and Omar.

In this picnic picture below taken in 1905, 17 years after the Barker-Turner wedding, Minnie Barker is pictured holding her baby daughter at a Barker family picnic in the Fairview Valley in Coos County, Oregon. Aileen Barker Rickard explains how her great aunt ended up married in Oregon without changing her name:

"After the family moved to New Mexico Territory in 1889, Minnie and her father, Squire Leander Barker, read a magazine article...written by a Fred Barker. Her father encouraged her to write to find out if Fred might be related to a brother who had 'gone West' years before. Their correspondence continued until Fred's marriage...in 1896. It was resumed in 1901 when Fred wrote to tell Minnie of his wife's death. In 1903, Fred and two of his brothers went to San Francisco on holiday but he did not return home with them. No one knew where he was until he arrived from New Mexico with his bride, Minnie Barker.

"Fred does not appear in the picnic photo, possibly because he took the picture. Minnie holds their baby daughter, Alice, on her lap, and next to her is Fred's daughter, Lela...At the far left, next to Lela, is Fred's mother, Mary Caroline (Norris) Barker, and his father, John Ledston Barker, is at the far right in the back row. Mary Caroline and John Ledston had seven sons — Fred, Verner, Glenn, Clyde, Jesse, Edwin and John ("Doc") Ledston, Jr. — and only one daughter, Birdie." Four of the brothers are shown in the photograph: Jesse Barker is to the right of his stepmother Minnie; Edwin is at the far right in the front row. "Doc" is seated, fifth from the left, in the back row, next to his sister Birdie in the big hat, while Clyde is next to the young woman on Birdie's left.

Aileen Rickard is currently working on a history of the Barker family, tentatively titled, *Seventh Son.*

THE AMERICAN WEST *offers $25 to any reader whose Remembering The Past photograph is accepted for publication on this page. We seek old photographs that tell stories of bygone times. We'll take good care of your photographs and return them promptly. Be sure to pack the photographs carefully and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for their return. Send submissions to* THE AMERICAN WEST, *Remembering The Past, 7000 E. Tanque Verde, Suite 30, Tucson, AZ 85715.*

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WESTERN BOOKSHELF

Edited by Bruce Kaplan

"IT WAS A TIME, A TIME WHEN:" REMINISCENCES

The Border And The Buffalo

by John R. Cook

Have you ever wondered how someone could take something you consider magnificent and completely eradicate and destroy it, with little or no understanding or remorse? Imagine drawing a bead on the last, the very last, living member of a once prolific, powerful and stately herd of buffalo and then pulling the trigger. The business of buffalo hunting in the late 1800s was just a job to many and has been remembered as such by one hunter, John R. Cook. These are his experiences hunting the herds, marketing the buffalo hides and fighting the Indians who took a dim view of the new economy.

State House Press, Austin, TX, 1989; index, 362 pp., $21.95 cloth, $14.95 paper.

Tales Of An American Hobo

by Charles Elmer Fox

Nowadays, we tend to look at guys living out of bed rolls as transients, people with questionable pasts, presents and futures. However, according to "Reefer Charlie" Fox — whose nickname came from where he traveled, not from what he smoked — things were different when hobos were honorable men living a life free from material and domestic responsibilities. Life was hard, but the experience worth it. Quoting another hobo, he notes that "Hobos will work, tramps won't and bums can't." This is the true story, as he retells it, of his many years on the road and on the rails.

University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA, 1989; 226 pp., $19.95 cloth, $9.95 paper.

Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada

by Clarence King, introduction by William Howarth

Clarence King began his geological career as a Yale College graduate working for the California geological survey. He went on to name — and climb — Mount Whitney and draw the boundaries for what was to become Yosemite National Park. He also organized and directed the United States Geological Survey. This work, first published in 1872, is an old man's romanticized recollection of his youth spent clinging to the grand mountains of the Sierra Nevada.

Penguin Books, New York, NY, 1989; 262 pp., $8.95 paper.

Medicine Man

by Owen Tully Stratton, edited by Owen S. Stratton

In 1898, Owen Tully Stratton, a free-spirited lad knocking around the country, began his medical career by working as a medicine show pitchman, selling electric belts first, then mineral water salts. Along the way he was inspired to become a real doctor — albeit an uneducated one — and practiced rural medicine into the 1950s. These are his memoirs. Imagine, the last person you see as you are about to go under the knife is the same guy who sold you patent medicine from the tailgate of a wagon a few weeks back.

The University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK, 1989; illus., maps, glossary, index, 272 pp., $19.95 cloth.

My First Summer In The Sierra

by John Muir, wood engravings by Michael McCurdy

Famed naturalist John Muir, while contemplating ways in which he could live off the land like wild animals and enjoy the same freedom, happened upon a job accompanying a sheepherder. In 1869, with one St. Bernard named Carlos, Billy the shepherd and 2,050 "silly sheep," Muir headed for the cool pastures high in the Sierras. Of course, he also was accompanied by his trusty blue notebook which, once filled with his insightful and humorous thoughts, was to become the very book you can now enjoy.

Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA, 1989; 12 original woodcuts, 176 pp., $35.00 cloth.

WAY BACK WHEN: HISTORY

Resort City in the Sunbelt: Las Vegas, 1930-1970

by Eugene P. Moehring

The desert town of Las Vegas has long been known as a resort city with gambling casinos and mild winter weather as its major draws. This book looks at the area as a Sunbelt city with all the growth and crime problems that have faced other fast-growing communities. Beginning with the construction of Hoover Dam on the Colorado River — which provided cheap electricity and water for the desert — and continuing through completion of the MGM Grand Hotel, the author discusses how local government functioned and how private developers prospered.

University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV, 1989; illus., notes, biblio., index, 329 pp., $26.95 cloth.

Rowdy Joe Lowe: Gambler With A Gun

by Joseph G. Rosa and Waldo E. Koop

Generally speaking, nicknames stick because, well, they pretty much sum up the character they are attached to. Such appears to be the case with old Rowdy Joe. Following his life in the "entertainment business," the authors explore the saloons, dance halls, gambling parlors and brothels in Kansas, Texas and Colorado where Joe made his living and eventually died. We are also shown how communities in those days controlled and policed those establishments with heavy taxes and license fees.

The University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK, 1989; illus., notes, biblio., index, 208 pp., $19.95 cloth.

Klondike Women: True Tales of the 1897-1898 Gold Rush

by Melanie J. Mayer

The women who flocked to the Northwestern gold fields in the late 1800s were not all good-timing hookers or sweet-talking gold-diggers intent on separating a man from his money, according to this new book. In fact, most were hard working, industrious women seeking their own fortunes in and around the Klondike gold fields by digging for nuggets themselves or by working in some sort of support or professional fashion. Some were married, some were not, some were smart and some were slow, but all were there in search of their own dreams.

Swallow Press, Athens, OH, 1989; 150 photos and illus., notes, refs., index, 267 pp., $34.95 cloth, $18.95 paper.

Texas: A Modern History

by David G. McComb

Contrary to popular belief, there is more to Texas history than the Alamo and oil gushers. This book takes us from the early Indians of the area through to modern times when people began to realize the exploitation of natural resources and pollution were ruining the state's natural beauty. The author offers many stories and an ample helping of anecdotes and folklore to paint an accurate portrait of the state and the people who have made it great.

University of Texas Press, Austin, TX, 1989; b/w photos, refs., index, 224 pp., $24.95 cloth, $12.95 paper.

Empire Of The Bay: An Illustrated History of the Hudson's Bay Company

by Peter C. Newman

What began as a land grant in 1670 from the King of England to his prince of a cousin is now a five-billion-dollars-a-year endeavor that has

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lasted through the changes of three centuries. Instead of merchant princes and rugged mountain men haggling over the price of goods, the empire is now run by business people in pin-striped suits who peruse spreadsheets like their predecessors inspected the furs spread before them.
Viking Studio Books, New York, NY, 1989; illus., biblio., index, 224 pp., $35.00 cloth.

Life of "Big Foot" Wallace

by A.J. Sowell, introduction by Mike Cox
William Alexander Anderson "Big Foot" Wallace came to Texas in 1837, searching for the killers of one of his brothers and a cousin. He stayed on to become quite a Texas legend, fighting with Indians, bandits and the Mexican Army and eventually commanding a Texas Ranger force of his own. Among other things, he managed to fit in a stint as a mail coach driver. This true-life account of his many frontier exploits was written from talks the author had with Wallace and was originally published in 1899.
State House Press, Austin, TX, 1989; illus., index, 200 pp., $50.00 limited ed., $19.95 cloth, $12.95 paper.

Let Justice Be Done: Crime and Politics in Early San Francisco

by Kevin J. Mullen
Where were Judge Wapner and the Mobile Judge when they were needed? Many studies of the law enforcement and criminal justice systems in early gold-rush-fueled San Francisco have focused on the two Vigilance Committees in the mid 1800s, when citizens took the law into their own hands by hanging a few bad guys and running the rest out of town. This author looks at the actual systems and statistics of the period and maintains that those vigilante actions were brought on by conditions similar to those in other rapidly growing cities in the American West.
The University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV, 1989; illus., appendix, notes, biblio., index, $24.95 cloth.

THE CULTURAL MARCH: HISTORIES, MYTHS & TRADITIONS

Handy as Hip Pockets on a Hog: The Colorful Language of the American Southwest

by Donald Chain Black
"You can't hardly slop sprinklers and dippers at the same trough." OK, fine. "She could bite through a side of bacon and not grease a gum." Why, those sayings are "like a cockroach on a hot skillet." Whew! If those tidbits of Southwest lingo have you on the edge of your seat shouting, "Yes, yes. Give me more," this book of provocative words and colorful expressions is for you. If you are sitting there wondering just what on earth those sayings mean, this book is for you, too.
Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, TX, 1989; biblio., index, 138 pp., $8.95 paper.

Indian America: A Traveler's Companion

by Eagle Walking Turtle
This is a comprehensive guide to more than 300 Native American tribes in the United States, with information on where they are, which of their ceremonies are public and how you should act at them, tribal histories, translations of tribal names and spiritual notes. The tribal histories in the book generally stop near the point when the White culture intruded on the Indian cultures and people began adapting.
John Muir Publications, Santa Fe, NM, 1989; photos, maps, glossary, biblio., appendix, index, 424 pp., $16.95 paper.

North American Indians

by George Catlin, edited and introduction by Peter Matthiessen
When first written, this study of North American Indians was entitled, *Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs and Conditions of the North American Indians Written During Eight Years' Travel (1832-1839) Amongst the Wildest Tribes of Indians of North America.* For eight years, the author — a painter — traveled and lived among the tribes of the Great Plains, recording tribal customs on canvas and in print during the time when those cultures were at their peak.
Penguin Books, New York, NY, 1989; illus., appendix, index, 522 pp., $9.95 paper, $24.95 cloth.

ON THE NATURAL

The Basic Essentials of Rock Climbing

by Mike Strassman
There you are. Suspended midway up the sheer rock face of a rather tall cliff without ropes or a net, toes jammed into a tiny little crack and weakened finger tips clutching a little ripple in the rock, when the thought occurs to you, "Gee, I really wish I knew what I was doing!" A little late, Fritz. You could have studied this beginner's guide to free-climbing, which is scampering up rocks without the aid of devices such as support ropes and anchors. It's not too late to read up now.
Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, PA, 1989; illus., glossary, index, 66 pp., $4.95 paper.

Canyonlands Country: Geology of Canyonlands & Arches National Parks

by Don Baars
If you like detective stories or just have a need to know what came before us, you'll like this book. If you get your Mesozoic shale messed up with your Paleozoic sandstone, which is further confused by some Precambrian granite, you need this book. If your orogenous zones are eroded by canyon cutting, just whose fault is it, anyway?
Cañon Publishers LTD, Lawrence, KS, 1989; illus., glossary, index, 140 pp., $9.95 paper.

The Sagebrush Ocean: A Natural History of the Great Basin

by Stephen Trimble
The Great Basin, which roughly encompasses southeastern California, western Utah and just about all of Nevada, is a vast area of land that drains inward, with no outlet to the sea. That, according to the author, makes for some pretty interesting plant and animal communities ranging from the dry lakebeds to the alpine mountain tops. The book is filled with photographs, drawings and maps of the region and includes detailed discussions on how the area was originally formed, what the glaciers did to it, how the native plants have altered it and what mankind has attempted to destroy and change.
University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV, 1989; photographs, illus., notes, biblio., index, 248 pp., $34.95 cloth.

Growing Fragrant Plants

by Rayford Clayton Reddell and Robert Galyean
Everything you need to know about landscaping, planting, maintaining, harvesting and arranging fragrant plants is included in this colorful collection based on the authors' experiences in their own gardens. By compiling all this fragrant information, they proved they had the scents to show us what, when and where to spread the pleasant aromas and pungent smells of a well-planned garden.
Harper & Row, New York, NY, 1989; color photographs, index, 176 pp., $35.95 cloth.

PEOPLE & PLACES

Chronicle of a Small Town

by Jim W. Corder
The author grew up in the small West Texas town of Jayton, caught up in his youth and

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oblivious to local issues, events and assumptions which don't become real world concerns until one's ticket is validated later in life. After years of searching, he finally found microfilm of the local newspaper, the *Jayton Chronicle*, from which he would make his journey back to the events in his past. What he found was that what he remembered was not necessarily what really happened.

Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX, 1989; illus., 175 pp., $16.95 cloth.

ASCENT: The Mountaineering Experience in Word and Image

edited by Allen Steck and Steve Roper

What began in 1967, in a magazine format, has now grown into a book published every few years (this is the third since 1980). This latest edition is a mix of nonfiction, fiction and five poems, all about the mountaineering experience and enhanced by intriguing photography and illustrations.

Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA, 1989; b/w & color photos, illus., bio. notes, 224 pp., $19.95 paper.

Greetings from Wisdom, Montana

by Ruth Rudner

The author first came to Montana on assignment from New York City. Like many big city people, she thought she had it all summed up. She left. Then she came back to write a book on the mountains. She left again, this time less certain. The next time, she came back for good, seeking out a way of life and environment that seemed to be reaching out to her. This is the story of her transformation into a small-town Western person.

Fulcrum Publishing, Golden, CO, 1989; 176 pp., $15.95 cloth.

OF BRUSH, LOOM & LENS: ART & PHOTOS

Images from the Inside Passage: An Alaskan Portrait by Winter & Pond

by Victoria Wyatt

Lloyd Winter and Percy Pond operated a photographic studio for 50 years in Juneau, Alaska, beginning in 1893 when the city was a 12-year-old mining boom town. This collection of prints, taken from glass plate negatives, shows people from the Tlingit and Haida Indian tribes as they lived at the time, surviving with their culture as the new world enveloped them. Turn-of-the-century Indians are shown in the studio, at potlatch gatherings, at work and dressed in ceremonial and European garb. If you like black and white photography and native images, this is an intriguing book.

University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA, 1989; duotone photos, map, biblio., index, 144 pp., $19.95 paper, $40.00 cloth.

William D. Berry: 1954—1956 Alaskan Field Sketches

compiled with commentary by Elizabeth Berry

William D. Berry was a nationally known wildlife artist who spent a lifetime studying and drawing life around him. The pencil and color sketches in this collection show incredible details of the animal and bird life in several parts of Alaska. The renderings include young and mature animals in their natural environment, with notes on what the creatures are doing. The drawings are very lifelike and give the reader a sense of being there as Berry sketched away with his subjects looking on.

University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, AK, 1989; b/w & color illus., maps, index, 230 pp., $29.95 paper, $49.95 cloth.

"In Wildness is the Preservation of the World": from Henry David Thoreau

selections and photographs by Eliot Porter

Seventy-two vivid color photographs play against the words of Henry David Thoreau in this classic Sierra Club book. Reading the text and looking at the beautiful photos, it is difficult to determine which came first. Photographer Porter worked for years selecting passages to use in this "collaboration" of two major American artists who lived a century apart.

Sierra Club books, San Francisco, CA, 1989; 72 color photographs, 168 pp., $24.95 paper.

Buckwalter: The Colorado Scenes of a Pioneer Photojournalist, 1890-1920

by William C. and Elizabeth B. Jones

Harry Hale Buckwalter was a photographic pioneer during the time when modern-day Colorado was taking shape. Some of his areas of interest, besides still photography, included fast motion, X-ray and motion picture photography and early radio broadcasting. The subjects of his photos show the diversity of the changing American West and his special areas of interest in news, railroad, mining and Indian photographs. He even dabbled in aerial photography, almost ending his life once when the balloon he was in went the wrong way.

Pruett Publishing, Boulder, CO, 1989; b/w photos, 158 pp., $21.95 paper, $39.95 cloth.

The Yosemite

photographs by Galen Rowell, text by John Muir

Rowell was just 16 years old when he first walked across the High Sierras in Yosemite Valley and read John Muir's story, *The Yosemite*. Three decades later, the noted nature photographer has put the prose of the famed naturalist together with his own color visions to describe this beautiful, pristine wilderness area. As one views awe-inspiring pictures like these, it is easy to detach the photographer from his work. To do so is a great disservice, because to get just the right shots, the photographer dangled from ropes on the vertical face of Half Dome or swam a raging torrent to find the perfect camera angle. The book is timed to commemorate the centennial of the founding of Yosemite National Park.

Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA, 1989; 101 color photographs, 224 pp., $40.00 cloth.

Alakshak: The Great Country

photographs by Art Wolfe, text by Art Davidson

If ever there was a love affair between photographer, writer and subject, this may well be it. The collection of 99 color photos shows an unabashed affection for the beautiful Alaskan countryside and wildlife. Beginning in the Southeastern rain forests, the reader is guided through the gulf coast area, Aleutian Islands, interior river land and the barren yet majestic Arctic region. The powerful text relates the natural splendor with stories about native peoples and the author's own observations.

Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA, 1989; 99 color photographs, index, 180 pp., $75.00 cloth.

The Art of Tom Lea

compiled by Kathleen B. Hjerter

Sample more than 50 years of work by a man as well known for his diversity as he is for his talents and attention to detail. As a muralist, painter, book illustrator, war artist, correspondent, historian, novelist and humanist, Lea has traveled the world, noting people and places with minute precision. His work in the Southwest and Mexico, with Indians, pioneers and ranch hands, reflects an intimate and empathetic understanding of his subjects and their surroundings.

Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX, 1989. illus., index, 256 pp., $39.95.

When the Rainbow Touches Down

by Tryntje Van Ness Seymour

In this book about Native American art, each artist discusses his work and shares the personal and tribal motivations for each painting in an attempt to bring the cultural and religious meanings to a greater audience. The paintings show native clowns, animal dancers, healing and puberty ceremonies and other Native

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American activities. Apache, Navajo, Hopi and Rio Grande Pueblo artists are represented.
University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA, 1989; color plates, illus., maps, glossary, biblio., appendixes, index, $50.00 paper.

The Cottage Book

by Richard Sexton
San Francisco has long been known as a town of enchanted living and wondrous architecture. The author takes us on a guided tour of some of the area's most unique small living spaces. From tiny "refugee" shacks built after the earthquake of 1906, through small shanties tucked away from even pedestrian traffic to larger bungalows rich with vegetation and feelings of permanence, all these cottages emphasize making the most out of small spaces.
Chronicle Books, San Francisco, CA, 1989; index, 160 color photos, 119 pp., $16.95 paper, $28.95 cloth.

Canyon Visions: Photographs and Pastels of the Texas Plains

by Dan Flores and Amy Gormley Winton
Canyons have always seemed to hold a special place in the hearts of humans. This new book — divided into sections focusing on elements, form, texture, color and light — uses pastel drawings to complement photos of the colorful and often powerful Texas countryside.
Texas Tech University Press, Lubbock, TX, 1989; index, 113 pp., $20.00 paper, $29.00 cloth.

Frederic Remington

by James K. Ballinger
To say Frederic Remington painted the American West does not come close to explaining who he was and what he did. However, viewing the sensitivity and passion he had for his subjects who were caught in a time that was vanishing before the artist's very eyes, gives one a much better understanding of the greatness of this American chronologist. The author examines the artist's major works in order to discover his aims.
Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, NY, 1989; 100 illus., biblio., index, 160 pp., $39.95 cloth.

OH, LET'S GO THERE!

San Diego Trivia

by Evelyn Kooperman
OK now, sharpen your pencils. What San Diego bank had a shooting gallery on the roof? What mountain in San Diego County was named after a snail? How about, what native San Diegan is known as the "Father of Racquetball?" Pencil still sharp? Mine too. However, the answers to those and more than 800 other questions are found in this book of San Diego trivia written by a reference librarian at the public library. What was the shape of Archie Moore's swimming pool, anyway?
Silver Gate Publications, San Diego, CA, 1989; biblio., index, 406 pp., $12.95 paper.

A Guide and History: State Parks of Utah

by John V. Young
Who'd of thunk it? Utah has 48 state parks, from Goosenecks and Edge of the Cedars to Fort Buenaventura and Willard Bay. The author traces the rich history of the parks and lets us know exactly what it was that prompted the state to go to all that trouble. He also lists what conveniences each park has to offer the traveler, such as camping sites, drinking water, showers, trash disposal, swimming and, of course, restrooms.
University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, UT, 1989; color and b/w illus., biblio., index, 234 pp., $14.95 paper.

Mexico's Copper Canyon Country: A Hiking and Backpacking Guide to Tarahumara-land

by M. John Fayhee
The next time you're told, "Take a hike," think about this beautiful, not-so-far-away Mexican canyon that will keep you removed from people saying such things. Located just one day's journey from the American border, this series of rugged canyons — on a scale with the Grand Canyon — offer many challenges to adventuresome hikers and backpackers. The author relates his experiences with the geography and the local Tarahumara Indians.
Cordillera Press, Evergreen, CO, 1989; illus., biblio., index, 240 pp., $12.95 paper.

Santa Monica: Jewel of the Sunset Bay

by Marvin J. Wolf and Katherine Mader
The city of Santa Monica was officially founded in July, 1875, when lots were made available at public auction. Within nine months, the city had grown to more than 1000 people with all the amenities of more established urban areas. This book begins its history well before that, however, with the Indians who had moved from colder climes across the Bering Strait. Eventually, the Spaniards showed up (actually, a Portuguese working for the King of Spain), the Catholic Church moved in and before long Americans began spreading out their beach towels and building fishing piers.
Windsor Publications, Chatsworth, CA, 1989; b/w and color photos, 136 pp., $26.95 cloth.

The Santa Fe Trail Revisited

by Gregory M. Franzwa
The Santa Fe Trail, from Franklin, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico, began as a trading route in 1821 when a fellow named Becknell decided to get out of town fast. He set his sights on the silver-rich Spanish empire that was to become Mexico about half-way through his journey. He did well and returned the next year with covered wagons full of goods. He did well again and you know how hard it is to keep a good thing quiet. Pretty soon there were diesel tractor-trailers bearing down the interstate. (Well... actually, it took a few more years for that to happen.) This book is a result of a National Park Service study team mapping the old road in 1988.
The Patrice Press, St. Louis, MO, 1989; b/w photos, illus., 273 pp., $12.95 paper.

SOAP BOX: OPINION

The Frontier Experience and the American Dream: Essays on American Literature

edited by David Mogen, Mark Busby and Paul Bryant
Eighteen scholars of the American literary tradition focus on the impact of frontier mythology on our collective imagination and that of American writers. The authors look at topics as diverse as contemporary fiction, regional literature, nature writing, drama, film and science fiction.
Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX, 1989; index, 282 pp., $14.95 paper, $29.50 cloth.

VIDEO MEMORIES

Gunsmoke, the Collector's Edition

Been a while since you've spent some time with Matt, Kitty, Doc, Chester and Festus? *Gunsmoke* hit the television airwaves in 1955 and began breaking new ground in portraying the "real" American West. You can now view four black-and-white episodes on video tape, including the very first one with an introduction by John Wayne. Gunsmoke trivia: William Conrad played the lead role of Matt Dillon on the radio show beginning in 1952; Burt Reynolds played regular character Quint Asper on the tube.
CBS Video Library, Terre Haute, IN, 1989; $4.95.

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AROUND THE WEST

Edited by Roz Parkman

Photo courtesy of Orange Empire Railway Museum.

Huffin' and a-puffin' its way through the Perris, California Rail Festival in April is the Ventura County Railway steamer, built in 1922.

TRAVEL TIPS

SKIING — BARGAIN-STYLE!

Here's an ideal combination: first, if you haven't taken your ski vacation or, second, sampled the slopes in Alberta, Canada, and last, but not necessarily least, want to save money, you can have it all through the months of March, April and May. Yes, May! Through Memorial Day, to be specific. Believe it or not, you can spend the holiday weekend skiing at Sunshine Village in the Banff area. **Alberta Tourism's** free ***1990 Winter Vacation Guide*** details information about accommodations, ski-tour packages and numerous winter activities in the heart of the Canadian Rockies. Contact Alberta Tourism, 10025 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA T5J 3Z3, or call *1-800-661-8888*.

TRAVEL MADE EASIER

Don't let the name fool you! ***Magellan's Essentials for the International Traveler*** catalog makes travel easier for the domestic trip-taker as well. Standard items such as lightweight irons, travel clocks (some with those extra-big dials!) and men's and women's money belts are included, along with several security-type items such as an alarm/flashlight combination and a doorstop alarm for hotel rooms and also, great for kids, too, those compact travel games. Something different: the personal stereo *Airdaptor* — an adapter which plugs into the airline's two-hole "airpipe" outlet sound system at your seat armrest and includes designed-for-comfort, foam-padded stereo headphones. Write Magellan's, Box 5485-P, Santa Barbara, CA 93150 or telephone *1-800-962-4943*.

SOME HANDY ITEMS

The **Traveller-3 Ways**, an all-in-one accessory with a toothbrush at one end, a razor at the other and a compact carrying case which fits neatly into your carry-on luggage is available from **Sentinel Consumer Products**. Another item to lessen the travel load is the compact "Ouch Kit" which speaks for itself. The company features items designed to lessen your travel load and offers a sound piece of advice: leave them in your suitcase when you unpack so they'll be there when you need them. For more information on other Sentinel products, write 7750 Tyler Blvd., Mentor, OH 44060 or call *(810)427-2241*.

DUDE RANCH VACATION GUIDE

You've made your decision to spend some time at a dude ranch. Now comes the hard part. Which one? The ***1990 Colorado Dude & Guest Ranch Directory of Colorado Ranch Vacations*** takes the hassle out of shopping around by giving information on the facilities, programs, location, activities and rates for 38 dude and guest ranches located in the mountains of Colorado. While some are family-oriented, others have time slots reserved for adults only. Some samples of programs: horseback riding (as expected), hot air ballooning and llama treks. Write C.D.G.R.A, Box 300-A, Tabernash, CO 80478 or call *1-800-441-6060*.

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TOUR DE WEST

A UNIQUE APPROACH

Nature Expedition International takes a more cerebral approach to the trip experience by focusing on facts about ecology and the environment from trip leaders who are specialists in anthropology, natural history, photography or biology. The **Southwest Indian Country Expedition,** visiting New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona, covers the land of the Navajo's past and present Indian civilizations. Remaining departures this year are: May 12, June 23 and Sept. 15. Land fee for the 16-day trip is $1990; the trip is graded "A," meaning "easy" in terms of getting around and about and, better yet, the group is limited to 16. Call *(503)484-6529* for more information.

AND ANOTHER

Ever tried four-wheeling your way through the Sonoran Desert? **Mountain View Jeep Tours** takes you on a rugged adventure into the **Coronado National Forest** located just outside of Tucson, Arizona. No need to get dressed up here, folks. Put on your favorite jeans and most comfortable boots, grab your cowboy hat, and let's take off! Since the drivers are familiar with Arizona history and legend, you'll experience more than just big bumps and scenic thrills. They'll pick you up at your hotel, too. There's the three-hour WRANGLER excursion at $45 and a five-hour RUSTLER trip for $58. And, if you're a hungry wrangler, they'll rustle up a real cowboy cookout. *(602)622-4488.*

THAR SHE BLOWS!

Whale watchers won't want to miss the chance to see at least a few of more than 15,000 migrating Pacific Gray Whales as they navigate the chilly waters through the Long Beach area on their way to Baja California and their summer breeding grounds. This is the last leg of their 12,000 mile round-trip trek from the Arctic. The easy-to-recognize "spyhop" and the "breach," whale-talk for these giant mammals popping their heads out of the water and jumping out of the water — is a spectacular sight! Several operators offer regularly scheduled whale watch trips, including **Catalina Cruises** *(213)548-7562*, **Belmont Sport Fishing** *(213)434-6781*, **Star Party Cruises** *(213)428-3782* and **Shoreline Village Cruises** *(213)495-5884*. Whale-watching vessels range from a turn-of-the century 90-foot sailing schooner to large triple-deck motor cruisers. The annual **"Festival of the Whales"** is scheduled through March 10 at **Dana Point Harbor** in Orange County *(714)496-5794* . Other area Whale Festivals also scheduled: March 10-11 in Mendocino and March 17-18 in Ft. Bragg. Both feature cruises, films, lighthouse tours, wine tasting, a whale photo contest and arts and crafts shows. *(707)964-3153.*

Photo courtesy of Gathering of Nations.

The Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, NM , held in April, is the largest American Indian event of its kind in the country.

A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

Experience life on the **Mississippi** the way Mark Twain saw it aboard the *Julia Belle Swain*, one of the five remaining, authentic steam-powered riverboats in the country. Drag out your deck chair and get ready for two days of cruising through primitive river scenery and past picturesque waterfront towns. **River Cruises** has daily departures beginning May 19 through Oct. 21, from Le Claire, Iowa. You do not sleep aboard your riverboat, but eat you will — and well — as you churn through the muddy Mississippi waters into Illinois! Stay overnight at the Chestnut Mountain Resort, then board a bus for nearby historic Galena, billed as "the town that time forgot." Once a mining boom town and home to Ulysses S. Grant, the town has preserved its uniqueness and character. Do your antiquing here and tour the President's home and other historic sites. If you're into more modernized riverboating, request the richly-appointed *Twilight*. Rates are $185 per person, including all meals, activities and lodging. *1-800-331-1467.*

TAKE THE EXPRESS TRAIN!

To Alaska, that is! As well as a ship and a bus, too, all part of the 15-day **Inside Passage and Canadian Rockies** tour offered by **Trains Unlimited.** Your train departs from Los Angeles June 10 and takes you into British Columbia and Alberta, via Vancouver Island. Cruise Alaska's famous Inside Passage and journey through Jasper (the jewel of the Rockies), where you'll wake up to the splendor of Mount Robson Park with its forever views of the highest point in the Canadian Rockies. Get a "glacier-eye" view of the Columbia Icefield as you skim along in your "snocoach" and, to add even more diversity (and perhaps a few extra heartbeats) to the trip, the spectacular and aptly named Spiral Tunnel train ride takes two full 360-degree curves to get down the mountain into the valley. A fun, first-class option to consider: Board the 1928-built, luxuriously appointed "Virginia City" railroad car (the car that catered to the rich and famous), available

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AROUND THE WEST

Photo courtesy of G. L. Foreman

"Call out the cavalry" and other historical sounds and sights are in store during Fort Reno & Indian Territory Days, April 27-29, near El Reno, Oklahoma.

from either Los Angeles or Oakland to Seattle, with its frescoed ceilings, beaded chandeliers in the formal dining room, elegant sitting room, exquisite furnishings, antiques and a *working* fireplace. Base price of the full tour is $2,095 per person, leaving from Los Angeles. Options are extra. Other trips to different destinations are also available. *1-800-359-4870.*

OR A SAFARI

Just think, you don't have to trek to Tanzania, or zap over to Zimbabwe. Instead, in just a few hours, you can be setting up your very own luxury tent at **Foothills Safari Camp**, situated in the 2,900-acre Fossil Rim Wildlife Center outside, would you believe, *Dallas, Texas*! With camera in hand, wind through miles of African-style savannahs where the greater kudu, addax (antelope) and wildebeest, among others, roam freely. You'll also see endangered species such as the white rhino, red wolf, cheetah and Grevy's zebra. Other recreational and educational activities are offered, such as conservation classes, fossil hunting expeditions, birding and botanical fieldtrips. After a big day in the "bush," come home and relax in your "tent," equipped with central air and heat, twin beds, shower and private bath! The cost is $375 per person, two to a tent, and this includes all meals. Dates are available on a first- come, first-served basis. Maximum accomodations for the entire site is limited to 12 persons. *(817)897-3147.*

HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU!

Take a horse and rider and add such appealing amenities as a hot shower, professional entertainment and meals to die for, and you get an idea of what ridin' the range means to the folks at **Adventure Trails West**. Trail trips include five-day explorations of **Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, Canyon de Chelly National Park** and the **Havasupai Indian Reservation** in Grand Canyon, as well as the popular "Zane Grey" adventure, covering territory where the famed author rode and wrote. And in case the folks back home don't believe you made the trip, your certificate of completion serves as your "diploma." Another nice touch — if you're on a special diet, let them know in advance and you'll be taken care of. Specific dates, rates and ride details available by writing to P.O.Box 1494, Wickenburg, AZ 85358 or call *1-800-346-4403* (outside Arizona) or *(602)684-3106.*

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CYCLING — WITH STYLE

If you thought touring by bicycle was geared to only those hardy souls out there, those of bulging biceps and magnificent muscles and absolutely *no* cellulite, you've got another think coming! **Progressive Travels** has designed cycling trips for the "recreational cyclist," meaning (kindly) the "average" person who is in "average" shape. Translated, this means you average three to four hours per day with mileage depending upon the terrain and the day's itinerary. And to further sweeten the pot, you'll experience the very best in regional cuisine and stay in first class accommodations. The four-day "**Puget Sound Weekend**" gives you a chance to see if you're up to speed, literally, as you roll along on a top-quality, 18-speed touring bicycle through Poulsbo, a charming harbor town known as "Little Norway," into Port Townsend, nestled in the shadows of the snow-capped Olympic Mountains, then on to the picturesque seaside village of Langley. The trip, priced at $695 per person, leaves from Seattle, Washington. Thirteen departures are scheduled, beginning April 13 through Oct. 19. *1-800-245-2229.*

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

A GATHERING OF NATIONS

The **7th Annual Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow**, the largest American Indian event of its kind in North America, is being held **April 20-21** in **Albuquerque, New Mexico,** at the University of New Mexico Arena. More than 1500 dancers and singers will be competing for

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over $35,000 in cash and prizes with the coveted title of Miss Indian World going to the contestant displaying the best personality, knowledge of tribal tradition and dancing ability. The world's largest Indian traders, Arts & Crafts Market, promises a special shopping experience as over 300 artists, craftsmen and traders place their wares on display. And the good news: photographs and audio recordings are encouraged. If you're planning to attend, American Airlines is offering a special "Meeting Saver Fare," requiring a 7-day advance purchase, and if a deeper discount is available from your departure city, you'll earn an additional 5% off the lower fare if you meet all the requirements. We recommend that you contact your travel agent for specifics.

C. M. RUSSELL AUCTION

Billed as the "Granddaddy" of all western art auctions, word has it that more original western art is bought and sold at this auction than anywhere in the world. On **March 22-25,** Western art lovers will converge from around the country on the Heritage Inn Resort in **Great Falls, Montana,** to introduce, promote and buy new and contemporary works. Nearly 100 exhibit rooms will be filled with thousands of art works for sale. Other fun events: the Chuckwagon Brunch and the Birthday Ball. Special airfares have been arranged with Delta and Northwest Airlines, which have been designated the official carriers of the auction. Call *1-800-443-3733* from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Mountain Time and tell the operator you are attending the auction in order to get your special discount. For auction information, call *(406)761-6543.*

WILDLIFE ART EXHIBITION

Getting people excited about the wilderness "while it's still here" is what the prints and paintings of Rod Frederick and the bronze sculptures of Sherry Sander are all about at the **"Step Into The Wild"** exhibition at **The High Desert Museum** in **Bend, Oregon,** from **March 10** through **June 5.** Frederick paints exclusively in oils on Belgian linen. Included in the exhibit will be as many as 15 of his new paintings, some private collection works and limited edition prints complemented by Sander's bronze sculptures of regional wildlife. Hours are 9 a.m.to 5 p.m. *(503)382-4754.*

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

The **Cowboy Artists of America Museum** in **Kerrville, Texas,** presents its major exhibition of the year, **"Cowboy Artists Silver: A Quarter-Century of Western American Art," April 21** through **Sept. 3** as a salute to each of the active, founding, emeritus and deceased members of the group, founded in 1965. Approximately 50 paintings and bronzes will be displayed, interwoven with highlights of the association's history. *(512)896-2553.*

CAJUNS AND CREOLES

Two companion French cultures come to life when **"Vermilionville,"** a 22-acre entertainment and historic attraction, opens on **April 2** in **Lafayette, Louisiana.** Three distinct sections include the Festive, Folklife and Living History Areas. Designed to re-create the elements of folklife of both Cajuns and Creoles who settled the South Louisiana frontier between 1765 and 1890, Vermilionville features original Acadian and Creole structures, including an authentic replica of a Creole plantation home, a cotton gin, schoolhouse and blacksmith shop. Candle- and soap-making, weaving, and other skills are interpreted by costumed guides. Strolling entertainers, a nature trail, period gardens and story-telling oarsmen in authentic period dress conducting rides in traditional skiffs along Petit Bayou all add to the good times and celebrations galore. *1-800-99-BAYOU.*

LIFE ON THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

A "don't miss" for all you history buffs as the sound of bugles, war drums and the staccato pounding of hooves are heard once again at historic Fort Reno, near **El Reno, Oklahoma. "Fort Reno & Indian Territory Days,"** epitomizing the cultural history of Oklahoma, will take place **April 27-29.** Travel back in time as you watch cavalry and infantry march, maneuver and drill. Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians will display the preparation of food, perform traditional dances, and make weapons and tools as they present the "other side of the story" of the American West. Other events include a reenactment of the 1889 Land Run and a new pioneer farming exhibit displaying many of the actual implements used at the time. 1990 is also the Centennial celebration of the founding of El Reno as well as the official homecoming year for the State of Oklahoma. *1-800-248-FORT.*

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO

The **Dallas Zoo,** that is. Opening on **April 7,** the 25-acre **Wilds of Africa** exhibit reputedly is the first in the world to re-create each of the six major habitats of the African continent: forest, mountain, woodland, river, desert and bush. The uniquely-designed monorail whisks you through the various habitats, even passing *behind* a waterfall. The walk-through aviary gives you a bird's-eye glimpse of the many beautiful African species and, not to be missed, the Jake L. Hamon Gorilla Conservation Research Center, a two-acre reserve where you'll view the endangered western lowland gorilla in its lush, African rain forest environment. *(214)670-6825.*

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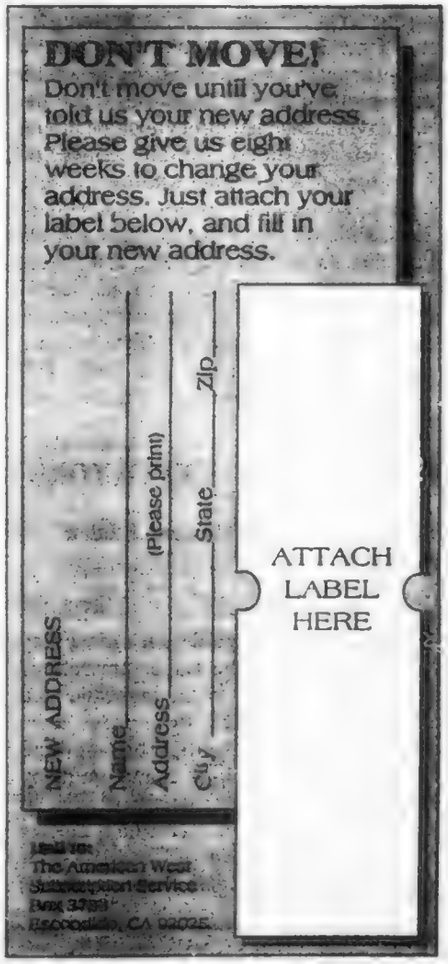
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AROUND THE WEST

TROLLEYS AND TRAINS

The chug of the motor, hiss of the steam engine or ding of the bell conjures up wonderful memories of days past at the **Orange Empire Railway Museum** in **Perris, California**. The annual Rail Festival, set this year for **April 28-29,** features antique automobiles and other fascinating transportation exhibits, but the stars of the show are the 1922 steam-powered locomotive, the recently restored old Pacific Electric Red Car and an Irish double-decker trolley. Not just for looking, but riding, too! *(714)657-2605.*

KANSAS EISENHOWER CENTENNIAL

Celebrations commemorating the 100th birthday of Dwight Eisenhower are planned across the state **through Oct.14, 1990**, the former president's birthday. Events range from displays of vintage World War II military vehicles and aircraft and antique car and fashion shows to art displays (some featuring Ike's own paintings) and a presidential library tour. For a calendar of Centennial events, contact The Kansas Eisenhower Centennial Commission, 120 W. 10th St., Topeka, KS, 66612-1291 or *(903)296-7265.*

ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

If you dig "digs," this might be just the thing for you! "Time Travel Arizona!" is this year's theme for a special focus spotlighting the wealth of archaeological and historical sites across the state. Activities planned throughout the month of **March** included guided tours of archaeological sites, opportunities to dig alongside the experts, historic and modern exhibits, slide programs and lectures and the grand finale, the **Archaeology Fair** at the Mesa Southwest Museum in Mesa, Arizona, scheduled for **March 31-April 1.** A statewide calendar of events is available from the State Historic Preservation Office, Arizona State Parks, 800 W. Washington St., Suite 415, Phoenix, AZ 85007 or *(602)542-4009.*

WESTERN TRAVELGUIDES

The Seattle Guidebook (Seventh Edition)
by Archie Satterfield

Leafing through the pages of the Seventh Edition of this "common sense" guide, one can see why it's made it this far. The author presents an "uncommon" approach to the mundane, and usually boring, where to's, how to's, recommended restaurants, lodging and telephone number listings found in many guidebooks. For example, Satterfield says "if you're sleeping alone and something nibbles your ear: State Department of Ecology 1-885-1900." (All you disbelievers out there, try it!) You'll nibble your way through the finest restaurants, be guided on tours ranging the gamut from Chinatown to Jazz and find "Odds and Ends" from Reassurance Services to a listing of Seattle's sister cities. 241 pages. Available for $10.95 at your local bookstore or from Globe Pequot Press, 138 West Main Street, Box Q, Chester, CT 06412; *1-800-243-0495.*

The Literate Traveller
by Nancy Heck

For those with itchy feet who fantasize about that next trip, this catalog containing off-beat, hard-to-find titles on exotic as well as familiar destinations provides excellent armchair reading. "The Insider's Guide to Santa Fe" is exactly that, or if you're in the mood to discover the haunts of some of your favorite literary heroes, "The Literary World of San Francisco & Environs" sets the scene for some serious sleuthing. 50 pages. $2.00 from The Literate Traveller, 8306 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 591, Beverly Hills , CA 90211; *(805)373-6956.*

Ranch Vacations
by Eugene Kilgore

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The Big Book of Adventure Travel
by James C. Simmons

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Walking San Diego
by Lonnie Burstein Hewitt & Barbara Coffin Moore

The subtitle best describes the purpose of this book. "Where To Go to Get Away From It All and What to Do When You Get There." So grab your trustiest pair of walking shoes and get ready to discover the treasure of peaceful parks, scenic canyons, beaches and mountains in America's fastest growing city. Ideal for families, senior citizens, youth groups, nature lovers and casual walkers, all walks have been selected for their natural beauty, ease of access and historical flavor. Complete route descriptions include distance, approximate walking time (most no longer than two hours), terrain, commonly-seen plants and wildlife, available facilities for picnicking, fishing and boating, maps and photographs. The book divides the walks into coastal and inland sections and includes "less rugged" walks, special strolls for birders and beachcombers, what to wear and carry, trail do's and don'ts and other tidbits. 240 pages. $10.95 at most book and outdoor stores or from The Mountaineers, 306 2nd Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98119; *1-800-553-4453.*

Festivals of the Southwest
by Kathy Kincade and Carl Landau

Delve deep into the pages of this guided tour to the Festivals of Arizona and New Mexico and you'll capture the essence of a particular area or town. Many of them have events you would expect, i.e. chili cookoffs, barbecues, typical Old West shoot-em-ups, but try these on for size: the " Clark Gable-Carole Lombard Look-Alike Contest" in Oatman, Arizona, or the "Whole Enchilada Fiesta" in Las Cruces, New Mexico. We're talking a serious enchilada here, folks. It's 27 feet high and weighs 250 pounds! Some events are silly, some serious. Arts and crafts festivals abound and if you like to shop till you drop, you can get some wonderful bargains to take home. The authors have compiled the information in an easy-to-use format — festivals are cross-referenced alphabetically, chronologically, geographically and thematically. Other Festival books available include California and the Pacific Northwest. One caveat which applies to all areas: *always* check ahead to make sure the dates have not been changed! 174 pages. $9.95 (plus $1.50 shipping) from Landau Communications, 1032 Irving Street, Suite 604B, San Francisco, CA 94122 or *(415) 564-5689.*

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GOOD GOLLY, MISS MOLLY!

by Marcia Reed

FAR LEFT: Molly's "ancient statuary brought from Egypt" still guards the entrance to the Browns' flamboyant lava-rock and sandstone house in Denver. PHOTO BY [illegible]

ABOVE TOP: The walls in this blue bedroom are covered with silk brocade. PHOTO BY JEFF BLACK

ABOVE: In the parlor, a giant polar bear rug is a striking contrast to the deep rose walls and carpets. PHOTO BY JEFF BLACK

"They call it a fainting couch," the volunteer docent explained, waving toward the narrow chaise in a silk-paneled bedroom of Denver's Molly Brown House. "Victorian ladies laced their corsets so tightly that even running upstairs might make them faint, so they always had a spot to swoon handy."

It's hard to visualize the "Unsinkable Molly," robust heroine of the *Titanic* sinking and energetic world traveler, fainting from running up stairs. But a visit to the 1890 Queen Anne-style house in downtown Denver that was her home is a revealing peek at the private life of a determined, tough-minded and utterly remarkable woman. Her life was similar to but not precisely like the breezy musical that perennially tours the country, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*.

From the moment you climb past the lions guarding the front walkway and step into Molly's exotic "cozy corner" entry, you realize that this house is a far cry from Victorian prettiness.

Lit by a six-foot bronze and gold lamp in the form of a blackamoor, the space glows with color: Flounced, fringed draperies and an upholstered window seat in an orange, cerise and blue striped fabric; oriental carpets before a fireplace that is tiled, mirrored and topped with a carved wooden cornice; walls and ceiling covered with an embossed gold material called anaglypta, made of layers of paper with designs pressed in, much like papier maché.

Molly was particluarly proud that the golden oak wainscotting and stairway spindles in this room were machine-made, rather than the old-fashioned, hand-carved kind, and that the hand-cranked telephone on one wall also proved how up-to-date she was.

By this time, you are prepared for the front parlor with its giant polar bear rug atop a rose-based oriental carpet, matching the deep rose of the walls and the rose-colored swag over the blue-toned, stained glass window. Mantel, piano top and numerous tables are loaded with vases, statues, pictures and bric-a-brac, souvenirs of Molly's world travels. Christine Whitacre, in her biography, *Molly Brown, Denver's Unsinkable Lady*, describes the house furnishings as a combination of "Moorish, Gothic, Oriental and Eastlake," an anything but boring mixture.

The three-story house, designed by architect William Lang, has the high, paneled gables, rounded balcony and stained glass windows that are typical Queen Anne, but the rest is an eclectic and exuberant mix, from the lava-rock and sandstone exterior with its salmon-colored wood trim to the Romanesque arches and interior flourishes.

When the Browns bought the house in 1894, they added a massive wall in front, to be topped by Molly's "ancient statuary brought from Egypt" — sphinxes and lions — which, needless to say, turned heads.

The sphinxes are long gone, and the house itself endured

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decades of decay, "modernization" and alteration, serving as a "gentlemen's boarding house," a rooming house, and even a home for wayward girls. In the 1970s, it was threatened with demolition, until a group of preservation-minded people joined forces to form Historic Denver, Incorporated. They raised $80,000 and bought the house in 1971. During the next 10 years, they raised another $180,000 to restore the house and purchase furniture and accessories that duplicated Molly's original furnishings as closely as possible. In some cases, they even managed to obtain some of the original pieces.

As you tour the house, docents point out some of the restoration work: a tiny scrap of vividly striped wallpaper found behind a register in the upstairs study — just enough to reconstruct the pattern. Layers of wallpaper and paint were stripped off to reveal "ghost marks" and construction scars on the old walls, indicative of the original floorplan. But Molly herself was probably the best guide. In 1910, she was so pleased with the floral decorations for a big garden party that she hired a photographer to record her success, so that minute details of each room have survived.

Part of the joy in visiting this house is the folklore about Molly Brown herself. Actually, three threads have been woven together to create the character that we know as the Unsinkable Molly Brown: Molly's own romanticised, publicity-aimed version; the rollicking musical comedy takeoff by Meredith Wilson and Richard Morris; and, somewhere half forgotten in the middle, the true story. Incredibly, they blend together pretty well.

Oddly enough, Maggie Tobin Brown was never called Molly, but that is the name that stays in our memory and, even if the red-haired, blue-eyed Maggie Tobin didn't travel from Hannibal, Missouri to Leadville, Colorado in 1886 in a prairie schooner caravan that was held up by Jesse James (her version), we can be pretty sure that she was bright, ambitious and adventurous. And the 10,000-foot-high Rocky Mountain boom town of Leadville was where the action was. Morris's song for her, "Nobody wants me down like I wants me up," fits.

That she was 19, not 15, that she traveled with one of her brothers and lived in Leadville with her sister and her husband, working in a dry goods store rather than in a saloon (as in the musical) doesn't spoil the story. She spent her evenings in Leadville (she said) starring in her own "penny shows," singing and giving poetry recitals, while she looked over the audience, searching for a rich husband.

Then she met the tall, blue-eyed,

handsome J.J. Brown, who was more persuasive than rich, and, in 1886, less than three weeks after they met, she married him. A 1932 edition of the *Rocky Mountain News* (which possibly served as an inspiration for Wilson and Morris) reported that J.J. "set 'em up" in the famed Leadville Saddle Rock Bar for everyone who would "belly up to the bar."

The couple settled in Leadville and soon had two children. J.J.'s skill in developing sophisticated mining methods made him rich and soon, the same newspaper reported, the Browns had a big house "with silver dollars embedded in the cement floors of every room. 'Them were the happy days,' Maggie said later."

But Leadville was not big enough for Maggie's ambition and, in 1894, the large and elegant house on Pennsylvania Street in Denver was purchased.

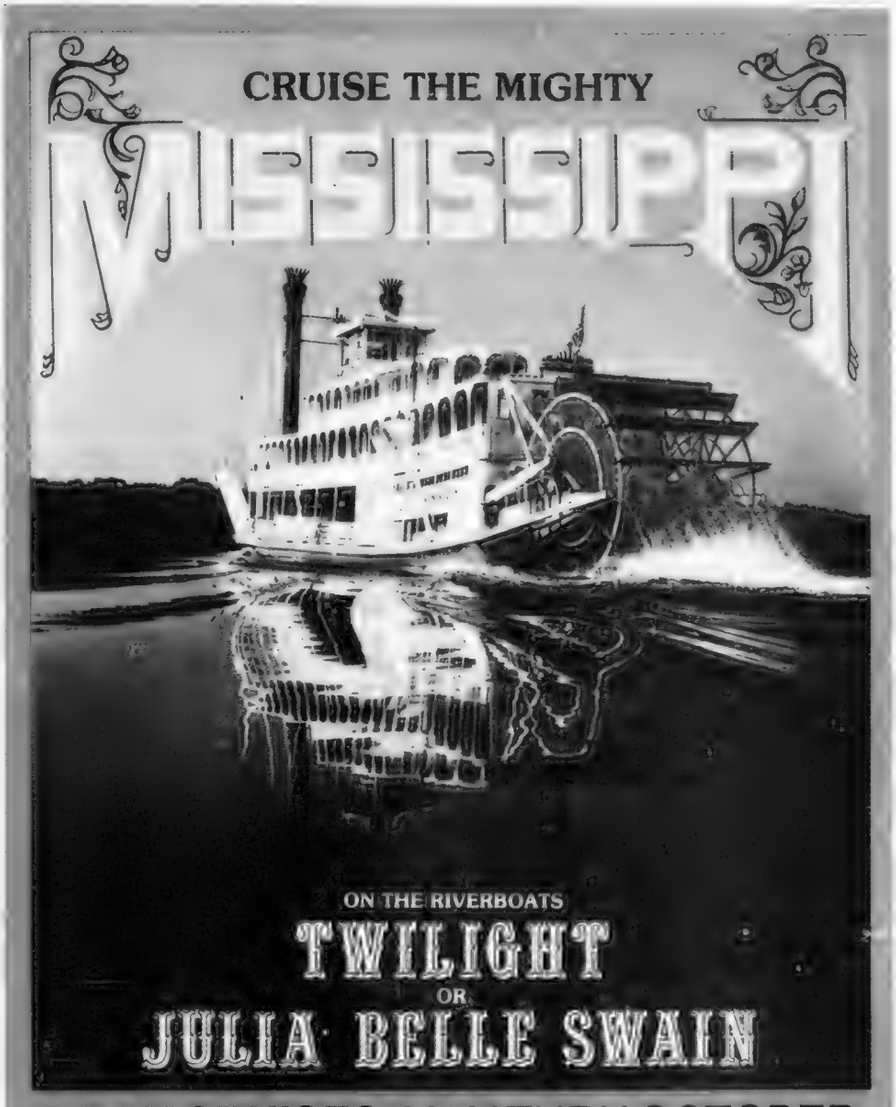
Maggie was ready for Denver, but Denver was not quite ready for her. The fact that she had gone to school in Hannibal and was not totally illiterate, as was Molly in the play, does not detract from the vicarious pleasure we all get when the musical Molly, newly rich but snubbed by Denver society, goes to Paris and acquires both culture and titled friends.

In real life, after gossip editor "Polly Pry" published a less-than-literary letter of Maggie's, Denver snickered and Maggie, stung, went off to New York's Carnegie Institute, where she spent the winter studying languages, literature and dramatics. Then she found an expert tutor in Paris to perfect her French, practicing with a champagne cork in her mouth to help her shape the sounds correctly.

Soon, the newly cultured Mrs. Brown was singing in ship concerts and charity operas, joining the social whirl of all but the "Sacred 36," Denver's exclusive inner circle, led by Mrs. Crawford Hill.

Active in civic causes, the Browns became seasoned travelers, and their parties for up to 800 guests were lavish and well reported. Maggie loved to dress up and her dazzling wardrobe kept society editors busy. Biographer Whitacre notes that she might appear at the opera in a "gilt lace gown...spangled and embroidered in gold...with an ermine-lined cloak," or perhaps a dress of "Venetian satin, embroidered with chrysanthemums, gilded thistles, gold embroidered lace and black velvet ribbons." In her hair might be "a gilt snake coiled around an aigrette with two large solitaires and a cluster of opals and diamonds."

But J.J. hated society, and by 1902, the Browns' marriage had begun to crack. In 1904, J.J. was sued for alienation of affection by Harry D. Call, who charged that J.J. had seduced his 22-year-old wife. In 1909, the Browns separated.



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Molly spent more time in Europe with her aristocratic and titled friends. In April 1912, she decided to return to the U.S. on the splendid new liner, the *Titanic*, whose double hulls and separate, watertight compartments were said to make it as safe and unsinkable as it was luxurious.

The rest, of course, is history. When the *Titanic* hit an iceberg, tearing a 300-foot hole in her side, Maggie found herself pushed into a lifeboat with 12 women and one hysterical crewman. Naturally, she rowed—and instructed another young woman to row too. Courage and leadership came naturally to Maggie, and sheer physical strength was there all the time. She not only rowed, she helped the survivors aboard the rescue ship, the *Carpathia*, putting her foreign language skills to good use on behalf of the many European immigrants who had been in the third class section. Afterwards, she helped raise funds for the destitute and pushed for maritime reform and greater safety at sea.

Becoming a national heroine propelled her not only into the top echelons of Denver society (Mrs. Crawford Hill herself gave a luncheon in her honor), but into politics as well. She worked for the suffragette cause and, in 1914, she even ran (unsuccessfully) for the U. S. Senate.

But the musical's happily-ever-after ending was not for Maggie. J.J. died in 1922. That same year, Maggie announced her engagement to the 76-year-old Duke of Chatre. But 48 hours later, she told the press, "Me, marry that old geezer? Never! Give me every time the rugged men of the West." (Paris papers reported that the Duke's title had been "extinct" for years.)

Maggie and J.J.'s battles had estranged them from their children, so that her last years were lonely. She died in New York in 1934.

Then, 26 years later, she came to life again in an unsinkable classic, as a warm, witty and wonderful character, so etched in Western history that she may live forever.

Who could ask for a better epitaph?

Marcia Reed is a freelance writer based in California.

The Molly Brown House Museum is located at 1340 Pennsylvania Street in Denver, a few blocks from the State Capitol. Docent-led tours are available Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sundays, from 12 noon to 3 p.m., October through March; April through September, the Museum remains open until 4 p.m. The museum is also open on Mondays during June, July and August.

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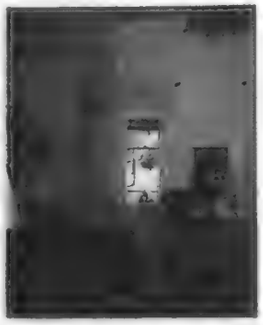
Long Live the Queen!

by Genevieve Rowles



A fine antique mahogany and green velvet sofa enhances The Queen Anne Inn's parlor.
PHOTO BY GENEVIEVE ROWLES

RIGHT: The Queen Anne Inn's marvelous Victorian turrets heighten the beauty of the Clements Historic District.
PHOTO BY GENEVIEVE ROWLES

BELOW LEFT: The Columbine Room's dramatically draped tester bed is a welcome sight for weary guests.
PHOTO BY GENEVIEVE ROWLES

BELOW RIGHT :The Aspen Room walls sport a lifelike mural.
PHOTO BY BRUCE KAPLAN

When you call to reserve one of the award-winning Queen Anne Inn's 10 antique-accented rooms, Ann Hillestad or Gail Evans will wonder aloud if you are celebrating a special occasion. An innocuous question? No, a loaded one. If you are marking an anniversary or a birthday, you will be asked if you prefer fake bubbly or the real article. Chilled to perfection, of course. And how does breakfast in bed on matching white wicker trays strike you?

Should you confide that you have chosen the Queen Anne for your wedding night, Chuck and Ann Hillestad and their staff will go all out to assure you of a memorable visit, including booking a romantic horse and carriage for a moonlight ride around the Clements Historic District, of which the tastefully restored Queen Anne Inn is a regal focal point.

That's the kind of place the Queen Anne is. Romance reigns supreme. But you need not be transported on pink clouds to enjoy this elegant, urban bed & breakfast inn. Numerous businessmen and women regard it as their home away from home. One, hailing from warmer climes, stores cold weather duds at the inn. Women traveling alone appreciate the secure feeling a personal home base gives them and the opportunity to chat with other guests in a non-threatening setting.

Enhancing the homelike feeling is the inn's openness. No off-limits areas here. You are urged to wander into the family-style kitchen at odd hours to brew a cuppa' from colorful boxes of herb and other teas thoughtfully set out. Weary from business appointments or sightseeing? Ann greets you with a smile and an invitation to relax in the parlor with a glass of sherry. Crystal wine decanters are placed on each of the three floors. All very civilized.

To walk through the inn's ornate Eastlake door to a tinkling rendition of "Oh, what a beautiful morning!" is to enter a serendipitously harmonious comfort zone in the heart of bustling Denver. Facing a greensward embellished with an Italian Carrara marble fountain, surrounded by gorgeously restored, late nineteenth century homes, the Victorian Queen Anne-style inn sits in incongruous juxtaposition with a backdrop of glittering glass and steel high-rises. Surprisingly, traffic noises are blocks away. The only night sound is the delicate splashing of the fountain, wafted in on a summer breeze.

I arrived in early morning, refreshed from a night's snooze in a comfortable cubicle on Amtrak's westbound California Zephyr, with only a 24-hour layover before Amtraking on to Salt Lake City. I hoped to see a hefty slice of downtown Denver. Being afoot, I wondered if I would have the staying power or the time to take in much. The Hillestads assured me that walking would be no handicap, given the inn's closeness to downtown.

After breakfasting on freshly squeezed orange juice, fruit, Ann's own granola, hard boiled eggs and warm breads, set out English-style on a Sheraton sideboard, Chuck took me on a walking tour of the charming block in the heart of the Clements Historic District. This vest-pocket-size architectural gem is lined with stately, restored, painted ladies constructed during Denver's opulent mining heyday in styles as various as Italianate and

Dutch Colonial. I had difficulty picturing the area as the tumble-down haven for winos that it had degenerated into by mid-century.

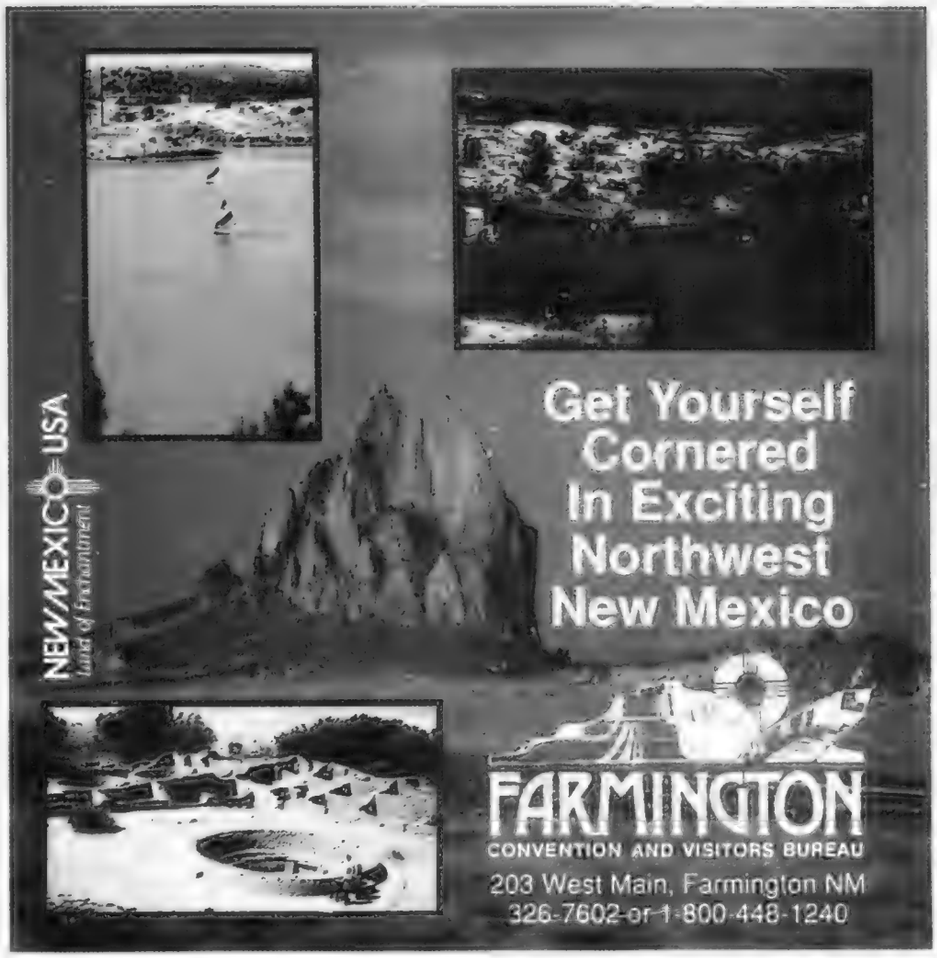
A real estate attorney, Chuck was a moving force in cleaning up the neighborhood and applying for Historic District status after he and Ann purchased a circa 1886 house on the block in 1976. Other "old house nuts," willing to rise to the challenge posed by the old beauties and liking the proximity to downtown, snapped up the remaining houses.

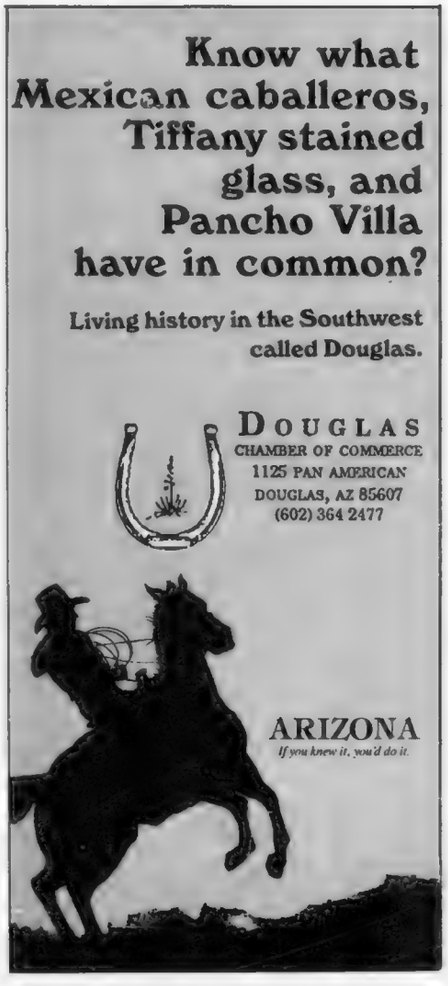
Next door to the Hillestads' was a circa 1879 derelict, one of five surviving residences by Frank Edbrooke, designer of Denver's famed Brown Palace Hotel. In time, they purchased it, too. A quarter of a million dollars later, after a two-year renovation, The Queen Anne Inn opened in March of 1987.

A photo album on display in the Queen Anne's parlor graphically traces the house's progress from a candidate for demolition to a graciously appointed home that just happens to be an inn. Guests with memories of a well-to-do great aunt's antique-filled home experience an uncanny sense of *déja vu* as they absorb the inn's genteel ambiance.

Rather than go the wallpaper route, Ann and Chuck painted the rooms a soft restful shade of peach, accented by white woodwork. The staircases' fine oak balustrades and newel posts are reflected in the glowing woods of the furnishings. As great aunts often did, the Hillestads chose to accent with conversation pieces. Antiques, such as the Skyline Room's settee and chair, survivors of the Great Chicago Fire, and the parlor's handsome mahogany and dark green velvet sofa, are one-of-a-kind treasures. Most recall the romance of early Denver. Many of the rooms boast handsome armoires. Keepsakes, such as Ann's great aunt's framed kid opera gloves and her grandmother's rocking chair, complement the fine reproductions that round out the decor.

The feeling is of uncluttered, yet homey, elegance, enhanced by colorful bouquets of dried flowers. (Ask for Gail's simple sure-fire drying method). Every quality magazine published today seems to be available in the parlor and guest rooms. Games, too. Fruit and candy are on the sideboard. Help-yourself fridges yield juices and sodas. The non-smoking inn has no TV (who needs it?), but there are telephones, desks and comfortable chairs in each room, plus clock radios. And music! Enthusiastic patrons of the arts, the Hillestads have piped in classical music. Until you have been greeted by the soft strains of Vivaldi, you have not experienced the ultimate in home-away-

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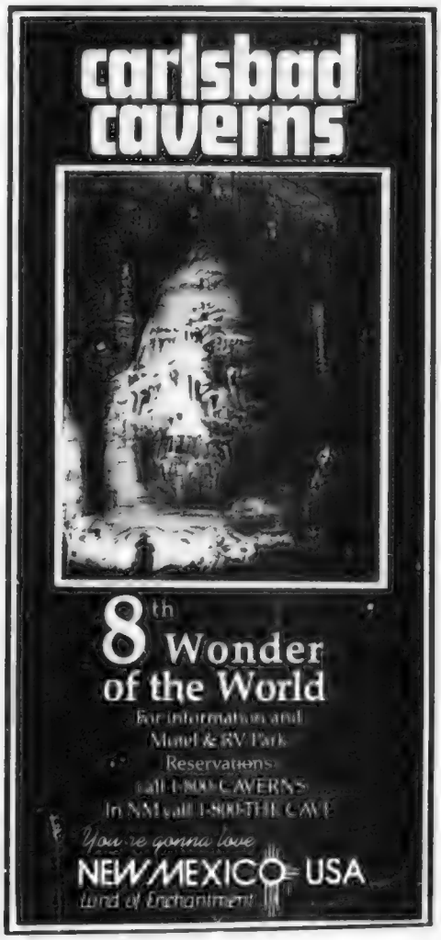

from-home pleasure. Ann and Chuck's support of the arts extends to paintings by local artists, available for purchase, throughout the house.

The peach-toned walls set the stage for each room's distinctive decor, accented with a different color and theme. Only the Aspen Room, high in the turret, is radically different. A wrap-around mural, extending into the six-sided peaked ceiling, depicts an aspen grove in autumn so realistically that guests have reported "seeing" forest creatures darting from tree to tree and peeking out from the underbrush.

Each room has a private bath, many tucked ingeniously into nooks and crannies. The masculine-looking Murphy Room's bath sports an oak Victorian water closet, complete with pull chain. Should you wonder what becomes of the cakes of custom-milled soap after you use them, or be tempted to put a cake in your bag, you might be interested to know that the Hillestads donate them to a shelter for the homeless.

The Park Room, with a wide-angle view of the park, features twin beds that convert to king-size. The Rooftop Room's French doors open onto a private deck with a heart-stopping view of the city and mountains. The Oak and Tower Room beds are intricately carved antiques. The Fountain Room sports a canopied queen-size bed and a gold-fixtured sunken tub. The Skyline Room's bath has a shower built for two with a window seat. The Columbine Room, where I slept in a beautifully draped tester bed, looks out on a brick-paved courtyard garden abloom with flowers and accented with whimsy. (Ask Chuck about the tombstones.)

Ask Chuck for almost anything your heart desires. He has bicycles for rent, can arrange catered meals if you don't wish to be pried away from your room, will explain Denver's fun and handy Ski Train to Winter Park's slopes. If Denver has it, Chuck will point you toward it.

The Hillestads are walking encyclopedias of Denver's sights and restaurants. They keep selected restaurant menus on hand, even a list of vegetarian eateries! Except for turn-down service and a chocolate, which would have been nice, they have left nothing to chance in carefully appointing their inn and in making the best of Denver available to guests. Their enthusiasm for their adopted city (Ann was an Iowa farm girl, Charles an Oregonian), and for the restored neighborhood that showcases the elegant Queen Anne Inn, is contagious.

Genevieve Rowles is a travel writer who makes her home in Salt Lake City.❖

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DENVER

continued from page 16

Italian, with columns of golden marble, original frescoes, afternoon trays of *biscotti* and cappuccino, and marvelous Italian cuisine in the restaurant. The 180 rooms and 20 suites are charmingly furnished to look like rooms in an Italian country villa. Guests have free access to the Cherry Creek Sporting Club, two minutes away by hotel shuttle. *782-9300.*

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RESTAURANTS

The city and environs are a mecca for great dining, no matter your budget or standards. For the best in French food, visit **Tante Louise,** a quiet, cozy, intimate little place featuring two or three tables in each room of a converted house on East Colfax Avenue. The blazing fires, marvelous French food, excellent homemade breads, tuxedo-clad waiters and exquisite table settings make this one of the top local favorites. Another popular French restaurant is the **The Normandy**. The service is excellent, the decor and atmosphere are simple and comfortable. **Chez Thoa** is another dining find in the Cherry Creek area where Thoa Fink creates spectacular meals with an Oriental/European flair.

Zenith, high atop the Tivoli Brewery building, offers a view and reasonable prices, coupled with imaginative cuisine. Also in the Tivoli is **Adirondacks** (formerly The Rattlesnake Club), offering yet another beautiful view of downtown. The clever, imaginative cuisine includes excellent beef and fresh fish. If you'd rather pay a little less and have more fun, eat at **The Grill**. The same chef works in both Adirondacks' and The Grill's kitchens.

If you need to be seen at a happenin' kind of place or just want to watch people who need to be seen, don't miss **Strings,** on popular 17th Avenue. A great chef, lively atmosphere, valet parking and, more importantly, good food and service keep the crowds coming back. **Cliff Young's** is close by and also very trendy. The **Olive Oil** is in east Denver, near Aurora, with bread sticks that are worth the drive and tasty Italian food made with the freshest ingredients.

Ristorante Boccalino, **Armando's of Cherry Creek** and **Bonnie Brae Tavern** are all good places for pizza and Italian food and sure stops for Denverites. The latter has an old-time diner feel to it, with vinyl booths and a bar. **Footer's** over on Ogden Street is another mecca for pasta.

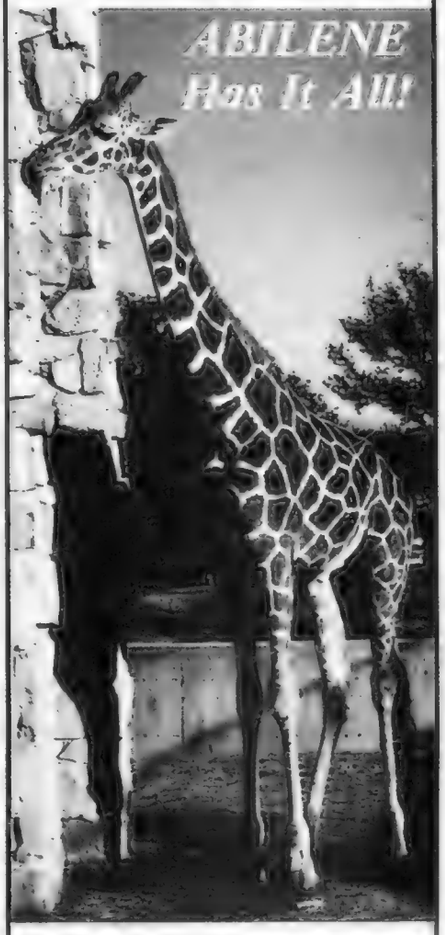
Olé and on to Mexican food. **Casa Bonita** is like Disneyland with a Mexican accent. Your youngsters will go crazy watching cliff divers and realistic gun fights, listening to strolling mariachis and exploring dark caverns. No need to mention the food; it's not the reason you're there. **Las Delicias**, on the other hand, is cheap, authentic and the food is wonderful. Tacos, enchiladas and burritos are the reasons to stop in at this crowded downtown spot. **La Bola Restaurants** are neighborhood Mexican with excellent 27-ounce margaritas. There are four locations scattered around Denver. At the **Blue Bonnet Cafe and Lounge** you can order oldies but goodies — five for a quarter on the juke box — and eat terrific, cheesy Mexican food.

Little Mexico, a seedy area on upper Larimer Street, offers terrific eating, entertainment and shopping. Stop by **La Casa de Manuel**, in business since the '50s and still offering inexpensive, tasty meals. **La Popular** is a great Mexican bakery, while **Johnnies Grocery & Market**, owned by a guy named Eddie, is a pleasant escape from the chain food stores. **Mexico City Lounge** is known throughout the city as serving up *the* best tacos in Denver.

For Chinese food, try **La Chine**, which offers gourmet Szechuan dining at its spiciest. The dumplings are the best. **Imperial Chinese Seafood Restaurant** and **Little Shanghai** both offer good Chinese grub. For gourmet Indian cuisine, **Tandoor** is the place.

If you've had enough ethnic fare, head to **Reiver's**, a neighborhood pub in the Washington Park area. It's a popular hangout for the University of Denver (DU) crowd. **Racine's**, with its in-house bakery, is a good spot near downtown for salads and sandwiches. Speaking of salads, **Healthy Habits**, on South Colorado Boulevard, has an enormous salad bar with at least 50 items and bread

From Long Necks To Long Legs



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made on premises. The best Sunday brunch may be found at **Wellshire Inn** on South Colorado Boulevard, on the grounds of the Wellshire Municipal Golf Course, with an elegant layout and lots and lots of food. If you want to incorporate a little Cherry Creek shopping into your brunch, try **J.B. Winberie** for a complimentary Bloody Mary or Mimosa along with some quality eats.

For a great steak, don't miss **Morton's of Chicago**. It has been described as serving "hunks of things," but don't let that deter you. The prime rib and steaks are mouth watering. **The Bay Wolf** in Cherry Creek has a popular bar in the front with a fine restaurant in the back. Good jazz, too. The **Fresh Fish Co.** flies in about 20 different fresh fish catches daily.

NIGHT LIFE

El Chapultepec is a trendy dive serving up cool jazz and hot Mexican food in the dining room next door. Located a green chili burrito's throw from downtown in a district of renovated and soon-to-be-renovated warehouses, the place fills up fast on weekend nights. Not too far away is **XXIII Parish**, located in a work-in-progress warehouse. This place has it all: DJ dance music upstairs, billiards, drinks, live music downstairs, snacks and an after-hours breakfast.

Falcone's, a good Italian restaurant serving up even better jazz, is located in the Washington Park area. Go for dinner and stay late. The house band, with a woman sax player, will knock your socks off. **My Brother's Bar** is the place for classic hamburgers and, classical music, offering a soothing background to the usual neighborhood bar noises. **Marlowe's** is a woody, ferny old bar with tables for large groups. For the freshest beer in town, try the **Wynkoop Brewery**, a brewpub offering various flavors of beer and wholesome, homemade pub fare, including a variety of ethnic dishes.

Don't miss **Acappella's**, recommended for its cheese steaks and fries and wonderful a cappella singing. And they don't hassle you if you bring the kids. Down the street, you'll find a bunch of interesting clubs and the **Avenue Theater**, which offers off-beat comedy. Or scrape the trail off your boots, saddle up the horse and head over to **Zanzibar** for an evening of country western dancing and drinking. The **Mayan Theater** is an historic theater showing art movies and serving expresso and desserts. **Muddy's**, a coffee house around 22nd and Champa, is a funky, health food place serving up innovative and avant-garde "off-street theater," yogurt shakes, special breads, used books and live blues and acoustic music Thursday through Sunday. **Her-**

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man's Hideaway on South Broadway is the place for reggae and a good time.

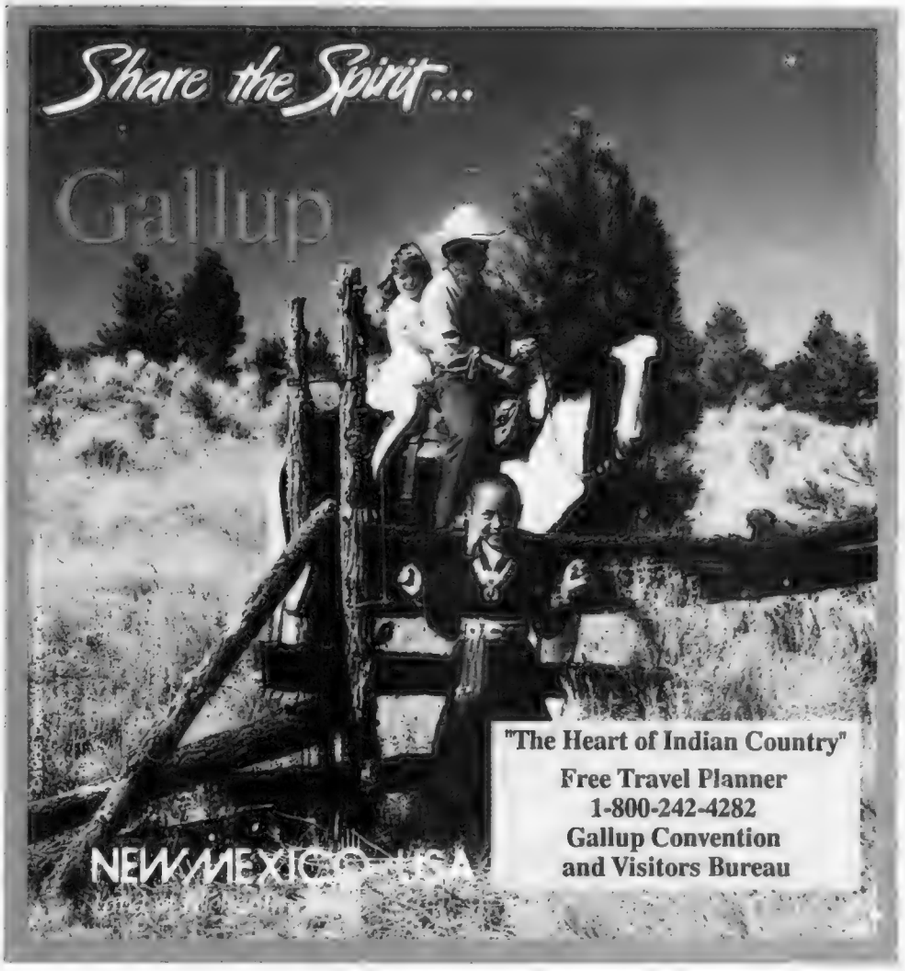
The **Paramount Theater** downtown presents national touring concerts and the Gibson Jazz Series, as well as free, noon-time, brown bag comedy on Wednesdays. Go around the corner to the **Paramount Cafe**, on the open-air 16th St. Mall, for outside drinking, dining and enjoyable people-watching. **Calvin's**, downtown, is an artsy place, wonderful for drinks and after-hours chocolate desserts. **Soapy Smith's Eagle Bar** downtown is historic and entertaining. Also downtown is the **Mall Exchange**, a good restaurant with great main-stream jazz. **Basin's Up**, upstairs at Larimer Square, caters to the young crowd with rock and contemporary music. Also in the Square, **Josephina's** is a good dance bar and Italian restaurant.

The **Denver Performing Arts Complex**, which includes the **Denver Center for the Performing Arts**, has put the city on the cultural map, offering live theater, ballet, opera and symphony orchestras in several theaters and concert halls. The **Arvada Center for the Arts,** northwest of Denver, features outside concerts and a good view of the city.

SHOPPING

There are modern and historic malls, squares and boutiques throughout Denver. **Larimer Square,** renovated and developed in the 1960s and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, is always busy with plenty of browsing possibilities. Check out the Western collectibles at **Cry Baby Ranch**. Do lunch at the **Market**, a busy deli and sidewalk expresso café. **Writer's Square**, between Larimer and Tabor Center, is full of shops and restaurants. Across 16th Street is **Tabor Center**, an enclosed mall featuring good chain stores and numerous local emporiums, like **Colorado Baggage Company**, which sells luggage, briefcases and trinkets. The **16th Street Mall**, with its free shuttlebus, not-so-free horse-drawn carriage rides and no cars, offers an interesting array of shops for both the casual or more intense shopper. **Montaldo's**, downtown, is not only a Denver institution since 1937, but also a great women's clothing store.

For truly drop-dead clothing for women, try **Auer's** in Cherry Creek. **Homer Reed**, with a new Cherry Creek location and two others, is for the traditional Ivy League man. As its name denotes, **Eccentricity** is a unique spot in Cherry Creek offering whimsical gifts, funky jewelry and clothing that is not-to-be-missed. For beautiful children's clothing, try **Merry Simmons**. For "mod" sports clothes for kids, there is the **Unicorn**.



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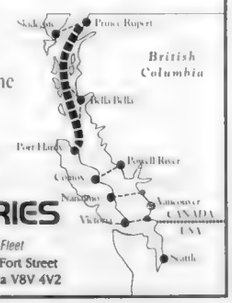

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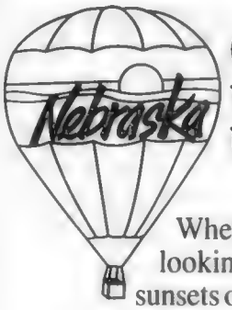

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Kazoo & Company features basic to classy toys and trinkets for the youngsters. If you've got some young tag-alongs, leave them to play in the under-the-stairs, basement play house while you help the local economy. **The Wizard's Chest**, across the way, is fun for magic and games. Check out the costume department upstairs and the imposing, roll-away wizard statue by the front door.

If someone else's old stuff makes you roll over and smile, **Eron Johnson Antiques** is a wonderful stop near downtown. Ask about the marble mantlepieces from old French hotels. **Antiques at Larimer Square** is another choice in the downtown area, but if you're really into antiques and collectibles, head south of downtown on Broadway where you'll run into several blocks of almost nothing but antique shops, large and small.

You wanna buy a book? **The Tattered Cover Bookstore** is truly worth a visit, built on the premise of, "You want it? We'll find it." Reading, browsing and contemplation are encouraged with comfortable sofas and chairs and shoppers are looked after by a large sales staff available to answer even the most obscure questions.

PARKS, PARKS AND SPORTS

Denver's more than 205 beautiful parks make it the nation's largest city park system. At **Washington Park**, you can bike, jog, roller skate or walk around a 2.5-mile paved path or rent a paddle boat and kick back on the larger of the two lakes. There is a replica of George Washington's Mt. Vernon garden on the west side. The playground with small wood chips instead of sand is unique, as is the climbing structure, both wheelchair-accessible. **City Park** is the home of the **Denver Zoo** and the **Denver Museum of Natural History**. The **Denver Botanic Gardens** tempt the senses with both indoor and outdoor pleasures. The orchid room, Japanese and Alpine gardens are peaceful natural havens even in winter, but are especially worth visiting in the spring when the whole place becomes riotous with color. Summer concerts also are held there.

Sports are an important part of this city's life, whether one is a participant or spectator. The **Denver Broncos** NFL football team generally fills Mile High Stadium with crazed fans no matter how bad the weather. The **Denver Nuggets** NBA basketball franchise plays at McNichols Arena to sell-out crowds. The NCAA Final Four basketball tournament will be held here this year, March 30 - April 2. Golf can be played year round. **Arrowhead Golf Club** is a must and so are reservations on this public course. Robert Trent Jones, Jr., who designed the course, calls it one of his top 10

favorites in the world. **Inverness Golf Course**, operated by the Scanticon, is a great course, but it's hard to get a tee time unless you're staying in the hotel. **Wellshire Golf Course** is the oldest in the city with stately mature trees everywhere and panoramic views of the mountains. Try the unusual driving range. Instead of hitting over water, you hit into a lake where floating buoys mark the distance. Joggers, walkers and cyclists will enjoy **Confluence Park** where the Highland Canal and Cherry Creek bike paths meet, as well as Cherry Creek and the Platte River. People ride the **Platte River Trolley** from here to Bronco games. The **Denver Athletic Club**, a private club known as a classy place, has reciprocity with about 100 other clubs around the country. Better call first.

Snow skiing plays a big role in Denver's sports scene. **Winter Park** is the close-by favorite. Take the train from Denver at 7:30 a.m. and read, relax, eat donuts and drink coffee on the two-hour trip that unloads you at the chair lifts. Return to the city the same day, but you'll have to miss that last run of the day as the train pulls out at 4:30 p.m. **Keystone**, an easy hour-and-a-half into the mountains, has both day and night skiing. One lift ticket allows you access from opening to the 10 p.m. closing. Buses transport skiers around to the various ski areas and interchangeable passes are offered at considerable savings.

Dillon Reservoir, near Keystone, is the place for fishing. Rainbow trout are plentiful in the spring just as the ice begins to melt. The reservoir is also stocked with salmon and other trout varieties and there's stream fishing not far off, as well.

KID STUFF FOR ALL AGES

In 1890, Mary Elitch planted her gardens, then organized free concerts and invited Denver to enjoy them. Today, locals are still enjoying **Elitch Gardens Amusement Park** rides in a setting that imparts feelings of "the good old days." Wonderful flowers, and lots of places to sit and enjoy them, make Elitch a stop above the rest. The roller coaster is world class. **Lakeside Amusement Park** is also popular in the spring and summer. **The Children's Museum** is a special place where every exhibit teaches with a hands-on philosophy. The world's smallest grocery store and a real television studio are special favorites. The **United States Mint** offers a guided tour of how coins are produced. Moving in groups along the glass-enclosed catwalk above the machinery, you view the entire process, starting with sheets of metal and continuing to the stamping and bagging of a bunch of money.

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DENVER

The **Denver Museum of Natural History** has everything — 90 dioramas, towering dinosaur skeletons, a collection of North American birds and butterflies, plus an underground cavern featuring gems, minerals and Colorado gold. The huge movie screen in the **IMAX Theater** and the **Gates Planetarium** located in the same building are worth a visit. Just a quick trip across City Park from the Museum is the **Denver Zoo**. Don't miss the new Northern Shores exhibit of polar bears and sea lions. From late May through September, you can enjoy spectacular views of the Rocky Mountains and marvelous entertainment in the 18,000-seat **Fiddler's Green Amphitheater** in the Englewood suburb to the south.

Do not miss the **Forney Transportation Museum** with its excellent collection of carriages, antique automobiles and motorcycles, steam engines and train cars. The **Grant-Humphreys Mansion** belonged to former Gov. James B. Grant, a Southerner, who built his home in the antebellum style, complete with enormous ballroom, billiard room, bowling alley and auditorium. The mansion is available for weddings and private parties and it's worth the the price of the tour just to see the grand staircase.

The **Denver Art Museum** contains what many feel is the finest Native American art collection in the country, as well as exhibits of Japanese, Chinese and American art. The museum also holds Wednesday night parties with music and exhibits. The **Museum of Western Art** has a shady past. In the 1890s, the building was a high-class bordello and gambling establishment. Its collection of western art is considered one of the finest in America, including paintings and bronzes by Remington, Morant and Georgia O'Keeffe. The **Black American West Museum** offers a realistic, historic view of Western black Americans' role in settling the West before the NAACP arrived.

DAY TRIPS

For some folks, the best things in Denver are the many side excursions to surrounding attractions. **Boulder** is worth the 45-minute drive from downtown Denver. It is home to the University of Colorado. The **Pearl Street Mall** (sometimes referred to as Boulder Mall) is where the action happens. The brick walkways, shops, galleries, cafés and people make this a constantly busy, changing scene. Check out the **Boulder Coop** for local crafts. **Hotel Boulderado Mezzanine** is a quiet spot for a drink. The mezzanine overlooks the lobby and a stained-glass ceiling acts as the sky above. Don't stay too long because you'll want to arrive for

dinner at **Flagstaff House** before dark. This fabulous restaurant, hanging from the side of Flagstaff Mountain, has an award-winning wine list, so you won't mind being suspended. Superior biking and jogging trails are scattered thoughout Boulder and you'll need one or both after dinner at the Flagstaff House, where pheasant, quail and elk are presented as works of art.

Not quite as far away is **Golden**, where you'll find the **Coors Brewery**. Some 350,000 people annually take a guided journey through the brewing, packaging and consuming process. A bit further up into the mountains, you'll find **Central City**, packed with historic buildings and museums. It was the gold and silver strikes in this area during the mid-1800s that fueled Denver's growth. The **Central City Opera House** has been around since gold rush days and still features prime performers during the summer opera festival. Eat dinner in Denver, then drive up for a remarkable experience. Try the **"Oh My God Road"** for an entertaining ride through Idaho Springs, coming or going. (Check out the **Indian Springs Hotel** in Idaho Springs. It's funky and interesting.) Also, enjoy the Central City Jazz Festival in August. **Georgetown** is a charming old mining town with many Victorian homes still standing and inhabited. At Christmas, the city celebrates the season with craft booths, roasted chestnuts, carolling and sleigh rides. At any time of year, try **The Ram**, with its large saloon and a dining room serving luscious lunches and dinners.

If you drive to Winter Park, stop off at **The Peck House** in Empire. It is the oldest hotel in Colorado and also a remarkable dining experience. A wide veranda running the length of the hotel is open for meals in the summer. In the wintertime, a crackling fire is always blazing in the dining room. It is a super place for Sunday brunch. **Red Rocks Park**, near the town of Morrison, is the home of the world renowned **Red Rocks Amphitheater** surrounded by towering red sandstone formations, a sight to behold. Rock and roll, country and pop concerts are held here in the summertime. If concerts are not your noise, there are wonderful hiking trails winding through the 2,700-acre park.

Take a drive up to **Echo Lake** through Evergreen and if you're feeling adventurous, continue up to **Mt. Evans**, the only 14,000-foot mountain with a paved road to its summit. Or head north to Ft. Collins for mountain oysters at **Bruce's Bar** and country swing dancing and good food at **Sundance**. Swing by the small town of Timnath to see **Bob Sweet's** metal sculptures on a small ranch. ❖

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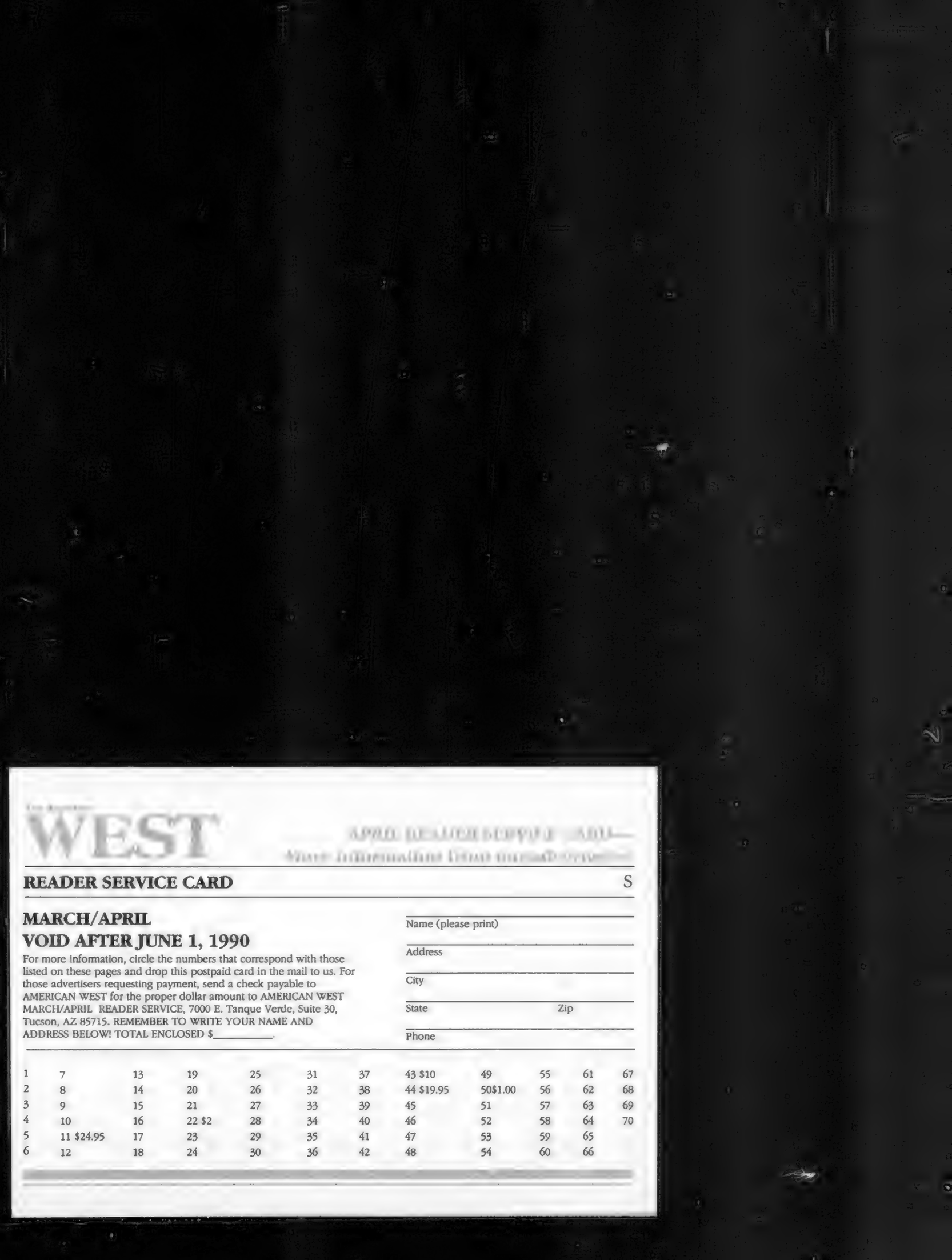

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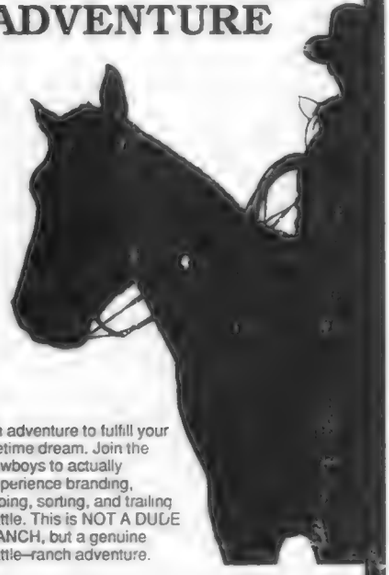

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70. WYOMING—This is the year to find yourself in Wyoming. Our spectacular National Parks and natural wonders are complemented by the special festivals, rodeos and warm, Western welcome that are part of our year-long Centennial celebration. SEND FOR FREE INFORMATION.

continued from page 30

ping Center, serves a wide variety of dishes from different Chinese provinces in an attractive setting.

Water Street Oyster Bar offers five or six daily fish specials and the oyster shuckers are constantly busy, but they don't serve lobster or crab. **Romano's Macaroni Grill** is about 20 miles west of town, off IH-10 at the Boerne Stage Road exit, and offers seafood and steaks in a unique old rock building. **Chez Ardid** is a wonderful French restaurant in a beautifully restored mansion with an intimate bar. Fresh lump crabmeat is a house specialty. Dinner can be expensive, but luncheon specials are a deal. An unforgettable dessert is the raspberry sherbet and whipped cream in a meringue. **Ernesto's** is a Mexican seafood restaurant with a French touch. The inexpensive chicken flauta with tortilla soup is a good choice for lunch.

Mi Tierra, owned and operated for 35 years by the Cortez family, is open 24 hours a day, making it a popular spot for breakfast. Mariachis serenade at dinner, adding a touch of local color. One of the most popular spots for locals is the **Alamo Cafe**, which offers fine Tex-Mex food at two locations. The homemade tortillas are mouth-watering and the margaritas are made with freshly squeezed lime juice. If you are hankering for chicken-fried steak, try it here. Plan on waiting at **La Fogata**, located in a former service station, but there's a plaza loaded with birds and parrots to watch, so you won't mind. **El Mirador** is famous for homemade soups and tasty Tex-Mex food, which is carefully prepared with a wonderful blend of traditional ingredients. Saturday morning soup here has been a tradition since the late '60s. Five minutes from downtown you'll find **Cristan's**, popular with business folks for its egg and bacon breakfast tacos or carne guizado.

For delectable seafood and for creamier-than-New-York-style cheesecake, try **Kangaroo Court**, along the River Walk. **Schilo's** is very much old San Antonio, with wooden benches, hardwood floors and always a line for lunch. It's known for its draft beer, draft root beer and split pea soup. **Nona's**, on North St. Mary's Strip, caters to the college crowd with innovative pizzas from a wood-burning pizza oven, a jazz band and, on Fridays and Saturdays, Lebanese belly dancers. **Taco Cabana** is appropriately named, since tacos are its claim to fame. Tasty German food abounds just five minutes from town at the **Little Bavarian Inn**.

For that special occasion, take **The Texan Dining Train**. Board the train at the Southern Pacific Depot for a three-hour train ride and a four-course gourmet meal, complete with sparkling silverware, crystal and crisp linen tablecloths. Reservations are required and private cars are available. The **Grey Moss Inn**, in Grey Forest, is worth the drive for its country setting. A place to linger, the restaurant is housed in an old stone building. Steak is the choice for dinner here and a glass of Hill Country Wine while you wait.

Paesano's, in business for 20 years, has better food than atmosphere. If you don't like noisy, crowded eateries, don't go, although the truly memorable Italian food, said by many to be the best in town, is worth any inconvenience. Don't miss the Shrimp Paesano. **The Fairmount Restaurant and Polo's Bar**, in the Fairmount Hotel, is one of the best in San Antonio. Another hotel restaurant, **La Camellia**, located in the Wyndham San Antonio, features live Maine lobsters, fresh beef or steak tartare prepared tableside.

NIGHTLIFE

Dick's Last Resort, on the River Walk, serves ribs, shrimp and chicken on butcher paper and every kind of beer. **Durty Nelly's**, in the Hilton Palacio del Rio, is a great sing-a-long, sawdust-on-the-floor place. **Farmer's Daughter** caters to the older crowd with country swing and down-home music. **Esquire Bar** always has lots of action at the longest bar in town. You can't miss its red neon sign.

Bombay Bicycle Club (not part of the chain) has an expanded happy hour — 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. — notorious frozen margaritas, comfortable antique couches and chairs, a pool room and a T.V. always tuned to a sports channel (in the back with rows of old movie seats). All this and great hamburgers, too. **The Funny Bone** features top touring comedians and a separate restaurant. **St. Mary's Bar & Grill** offers live entertainment on weekends. **La Playa** is always crowded, even the outside patio. Go for the rock and roll music.

The Roaring 20s, eight miles from downtown, is the place for ballroom dancing, Wednesday to Saturday. For disco and live bands, head out to **Scratches**, on the 410 Loop. Order up a long neck beer at **The Blue Bonnet Palace** in Selma, about 1/2 hour from downtown, a local hangout with live bullriding contests and real cowboys, some fine country western and honky-tonk music. **The Texas Star Inn**, on Bandera Road, is an old-time western dance hall where they do some serious dancing and drinking. Stop in at **The Landing** in the Hyatt Regency for a good time with Jim Cullum and his Happy Jazz Band. He's not there every night, so be sure to check first. Try the Bathtub Gin, which arrives at your

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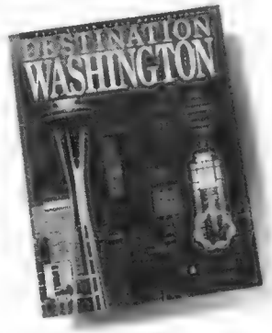

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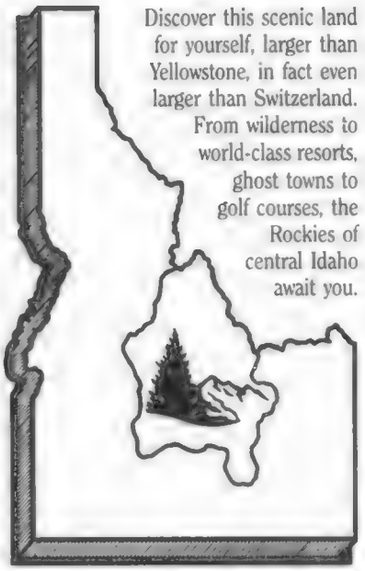

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The newly renovated **Majestic Theater**, built in the early 1900s, is now the home of the San Antonio Symphony and touring Broadway shows and performers. Over at the **Guadalupe Theater**, you'll find everything from reggae to jazz on the stage.

TOURISTY STUFF

The obvious place to start your visit is the **Alamo**. But first, visit the **IMAX Theater** in the Rivercenter and watch *The Price of Freedom*, a 45-minute docu-drama which tells the tale of the 189 defenders who died during the 13-day battle that made the adobe mission famous. The IMAX screen is six stories tall and the amazing sound system gives you a sense of being there. Then return to **Alamo Plaza** to see the original. The chapel is all that remains of the original fort. Don't miss the museum where artifacts belonging to those who lost their lives "in freedom's cause" are on exhibit.

Sea World of Texas, a 250-acre, marine park, offers a variety of marine animals in shows, exhibits and exciting acts, much like Sea World in San Diego. Be sure to stroll the beautiful grounds and the Texas Walk, where 16 life-sized bronze sculptures of famous Texans line the pathway.

While you're in an animal mode, head for the **San Antonio Zoo** in the northwest corner of Brackenridge Park. It used to be a stone quarry but zoo landscapers have performed miracles, turning the craggy rocks into pleasing animal habitats. The zoo has the third largest animal collection in America, colorful flowering shrubs and gorgeous live oak and cypress trees. Check out the new Australian Walkabout exhibit. There is a separate **Children's Zoo** in the park, as well. Another sight to see is the **Union Stockyards** auction house, where every Monday through Wednesday a lot of livestock changes hands.

If you're not in San Antonio when the wildflowers are in bloom, all is not lost. Head to the **San Antonio Botanical Center**. This 33-acre garden depicts the changing Texas landscape from wildflowers to formal rose gardens. **The Lucile Halsell Conservatory**, on the grounds, ranks as one of the top 10 botanical centers in the country with 90,000 square feet of climatically controlled growing things.

For a sense of the past in San Antonio, tour Texas' first designated historic neighborhood, the **King William Historic Area**, which covers about 25 blocks on the south bank of the San Antonio River. Walking tours are available from the San Antonio Conservation Society.

SAN ANTONIO

Located in Brackenridge Park, and alive with curiosities and memorabilia from the pages of Texas history, the 60-year-old **Witte Museum** houses extensive exhibits covering history, anthropology and natural science. There are dinosaur bones, an 8000-year-old rock and several historic Texas houses on the grounds. Be sure to see the charming butterfly and hummingbird garden. A collection of major French impressionists are housed in the **McNay Art Museum**, an impressive mansion turned museum. **Institute of Texan Cultures**, located in HemisFair Park, is the perfect place to meet the many ethnic groups responsible for Texas history and folk culture. This is a hands-on museum where sight, sound and touch contribute to your experience.

The **San Antonio Museum of Art**, a castle-like structure that was once the Lone Star Brewing Company's headquarters, is now the home of priceless Greek and Roman antiques, 17th century European masters and a delightful Mexican folk art exhibit from the collection of Nelson Rockefeller. On the grounds of the **Lone Star Brewing Company** are the **Buckhorn Hall of Horns, Hall of Fins** and **Hall of Feathers** with more than 3500 sets of antlers and animal trophies from all over the world. The horn collection began years ago when a free beer was offered for every pair of horns. Free samples of draft beer and draft root beer are offered in the Buckhorn Bar, once the city's most respectable bar, now relocated to the grounds. Also on the grounds is the San Antonio home of author O. Henry, a relocated, two-room stone cottage.

DAY TRIPS

German pioneers settled **Fredericksburg** in the 1840s and the German language can still be heard. This quaint town boasts lovely gingerbread houses, wide stately streets and antique shops everywhere. The **Admiral Nimitz Museum-The Museum of the Pacific War** is here, as well. To get to Fredericksburg, take IH-10 West to Comfort, then turn onto 87 West. There are several small bed and breakfasts and an interesting winery nearby.

Kerrville, another scenic town in the wooded hill country to the north, is a haven for artists, craftsmen and musicians and home to the **Cowboy Artist Museum**. Stop at the Y.O. Hilton for a bite to eat in the **Sam Houston Restaurant**. If you need more arts and crafts to fill up your luggage, stop in **Ingram**, close to Kerrville. Northwest of San Antonio is the "Cowboy Capital" (of the world, presumably), located around the town of **Bandera**, an area known as Dude Ranch Country. In town, stop at **Arkey Blue's Silver Dollar** for loads of Saturday night fun dancing on sawdust-covered floors to live music.

New Braunfels is an historic town established in 1845 by German settlers, led by Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels. His former home, now the **Sophienberg Museum**, is worth a quick stop. You won't want to leave New Braunfels without sampling the renowned bread and pastries. **Goerke's Country Tavern** serves delicious homemade sausage and barbeque brisket and superb ribs, weekends only. Besides the typical herds of longhorns and quarter horses, **Y.O. Ranch**, on IH-10 West, sports the country's largest collection of roaming exotic animals. You can stay overnight in historic log cabins and bunk houses.

SHOPPING

Rivercenter is for serious shoppers, with 10 acres of shops, hotels and 60,000 square feet of glass. Bridges, strumming mariachis, lots of water and a horseshoe-shaped design combine the cultures of Texas with a hint of Venice. **La Chamade**, at La Villita, customizes and ships wonderful jewelry and sells sterling silver by local craftsmen, oriental pieces and precious and semi-precious gems.

OUTDOORS AND SPORTS STUFF

Paddle boats and one of the world's longest miniature trains are found at **Brackenridge Park**. The **Japanese Tea Garden** in the park spreads over three beautifully landscaped acres of rustic stone bridges, flowers, trees, winding paths and fish ponds. A skyride offers superb views of the park and San Antonio's skyline and there is a public golf course, as well. Horseback riding along the bridle trails in the park is a fun outing with the kids. And don't miss the waterfall.

There are four good public golf courses in the area. Lots of senior citizens play at **Brackenridge Park Golf Course** and at **Olmos Basin**. The newest public courses are **Cedar Creek** and **Mission del Ago**. **The Club at Sonterra** is a private golf club that reciprocates with other private clubs. **The Dominion Country Club** has hosted the P.G.A. Seniors Tournament since 1985. Call ahead for reservations.

If tennis gets you moving, head for **McFarlin Tennis Courts**, where you'll find 22 lighted, outdoor courts.

The **San Antonio Spurs**, a professional basketball team, is popular with the locals. They play at the Convention Center Arena. If fishing and lake living are more to your style, the two most popular lakes in the hill country are **Canyon** and **Medina**. ❖

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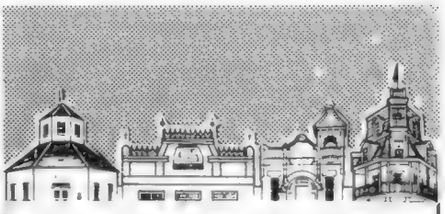

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*Address*_____
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WESTERN CALENDAR

The American West's Springtime menu is a zesty, varied, and occasionally zany one. Whatever your taste, you're sure to find something to please your palate. Its a la carte offerings include food, glorious food (of course) as well as a generous sample of flowers and fauna, folk festivals, skiing and snowboarding, historical reenactments, gem shows, parades, kite fights, carnivals — even a cowchip contest. Get in on the action, but before you go, be sure to call the local tourism office and verify dates and events as they can change.

ALASKA

Alaska Div. of Tourism
P. O. Box E
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907)465-2010

Anchorage

Mar. 3: Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race
Billed as the "last great race on earth," mushers race their dogs 1,049 miles to Nome, and believe it or not, get there no later than 10 days after the start of the race! And, when in Nome, let the festivities begin. Here's a sample: Alaska's largest basketball tournament, a dog weight-pulling contest, a snow machine race and a big banquet commemorate the world-wide event.

Nome

Mar. 20: Bering Sea Ice Classic Golf Tournament
For all you duffers, here's a *six*-hole, *par 41* game played right on the frozen sea — and the golf balls are fluorescent! No excuses necessary.

Kodiak

Mar. 24-25: Pillar Mountain Golf Classic
Just in case you need a *bigger* handicap, here's a *par 70, one-hole* tournament right up the side of 1,400-foot Pillar Mountain! Sorry, no electrical "boosts" allowed. Just you and your clubs!

ARIZONA

Arizona Office of Tourism
1100 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602)542-8687

Tombstone

Mar. 3-4: Territorial Days
Just how fast can an 1880 firecart go? Find out at the Arizona Championship Firecart races, followed by a potpourri of unusual pets (i. e. skunks, pigs) vying for top honors as the ugliest or most unusual. On Main Street.

Chandler

Mar. 9-11: Annual Ostrich Festival
Swing low, sweet chariot — pulled by an ostrich yet! And for one-humpmanship, try the camel races, too. Rock and country western music, a carnival and if you want to be a star, get up on stage and do your thing. A 10K run and bike race, too. And, if you're worn out by now, take a break at one of many food booths.

Tucson

April 20: San Xavier Pageant & Fiesta
See colors and cultures blend before your very eyes as Yaqui Matachin Dancers bless the earth around the famed mission and Spanish horse soldiers ride out of the hills through scores of bonfires. A one-of-a-kind spectacle and no cameras, please, at the request of the Yaqui Indians. The pageant starts at 8 p.m. Get there early.

ARKANSAS

Dept. of Parks and Tourism
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501)682-7777

Washington

Mar. 9-11: 22nd Annual Jonquil Festival
Stroll through historic Old Washington State Park and enjoy the bloomin' sight of thousands of jonquils. Also arts and crafts, blacksmithing demonstrations and some fine folk music. And if you want a guided tour of the park, it's yours for the asking.

Bismarck

Mar. 31: 2nd Annual "Do It In The Dark" Nite Lite Tournament
Made to order for the closet golfer. Take one flashlight, add one luminous golf ball, head for the lantern at the tee and shoot for the flare at the flag. Good luck! Oh, don't forget your clubs! At De Gray Resort State Park Golf Course.

Mountain View

Apr. 20-22: 28th Annual Arkansas Folk Festival
A salute to the culture of the Ozarks with musical performances and dancing, parades, crafts demonstrations and a rodeo. At the Court Square and nearby Ozark Folk Center.

CALIFORNIA

California Dept. of Commerce
Office of Tourism
P.O. Box 9278, ext. T-100
Van Nuys, Ca. 91409
(800)862-2543

PHOTO COURTESY OF SNOWFEST

Meet "Rock Star," a winner in the Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest at last year's Snowfest Winter Carnival in North Lake Tahoe. This year's dates: Mar. 2-11.

North Lake Tahoe

Mar 2-11: Snowfest
The largest winter carnival in the western United States opens with a torchlight ski parade, fireworks and a laser light show. New events this year: the Bid For Bachelors, a Battle of the Skiing College Marching Bands at Sugar Bowl, Northstar-at-Tahoe's Joy of Skiing & Eating Festival and Tahoe a la Carte, showcasing the wide variety of fine cuisine in the area. Putting your plates aside, there's the oh-so-popular Dress-Up-Your Dog Contest, also a snow softball tournament, snow sculpture contests, the Snowfest Parade and a special children's Penny Carnival.

Guerneville

Mar. 17: 11th Annual Slug Fest

Mike Tyson, move over. We're talking *real* slugs here, folks. And the Russian River banana slug is in the center ring. Previous winning dishes of the Slug Cuisine contest include "slugetti" and "upslime down cake". Don't miss the Slug Sprint, guaranteed to finish by dark! Busy, busy day — definitely *not* for the "sluggish."

PHOTO COURTESY OF HANFORD ASSOCIATES

Just one of many spectacular sights at the Annual Cherry Blossom Festival in San Francisco held on two weekends: Apr. 20-22, Apr. 27-29.

San Francisco

Apr. 20-22, Apr. 27-29: 23rd Annual Cherry Blossom Festival

Scores of performers from Japan gather to commemorate their cultural heritage in this two-weekend celebration. Sparkling costumes, classical and folk dancing, flower-arranging demonstrations, a taiko drum concert, and entertainment by Asian-American bands, dance troupes and theatre groups. Don't miss the Festival finale, the spectacular Pageant parade on **Apr. 22**.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LONG BEACH AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS COUNCIL

Start Your Engines! at the 16th Annual Toyota Grand Prix in Long Beach on Apr. 20-22.

Long Beach

Apr. 20-22: 16th Annual Toyota Grand Prix

A world class Indy Car World Series event with big names like Al Unser, Jr., Michael Andretti and Danny Sullivan. And, to get you in the mood, pre-race activities include a Wine and Dine d'Elegance, a classic car race, and some foot-stompin', hollerin' and taste-bud testin' at the Western Festival and Chili Cookoff.

COLORADO

Colorado Dept. of Tourism
1625 Broadway,
Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202
(800)433-2656

Aspen

Mar. 2-4: International Telemark Skiing Championships (Buttermilk Mountain)

The way that skiing used to be — and certainly with a greater degree of difficulty — the antique art of telemark-style skiing challenges top competitors from around the world to make turns with only the front toe of their ski boots attached to their skis. And for what? The title of Best In The World!

Purgatory

Mar. 23-25: North American Amateur Snowboard Championship

Watch competitors from across the country "surf" the Rockies in their wildly colored ski attire. A unique approach to the slopes and not as easy as it looks, either.

Breckenridge

Apr. 7: Taste of Breckenridge

Ditch the diet, folks! As the name implies, it's a culinary jubilee with participants sampling the chef's choice of delectable delicacies and desserts from 20 of the area's best restaurants. And you get to help the panel of celebrity judges select the winners!

HAWAII

Hawaii Visitors Bureau
2270 Kalakaua Avenue, Suite 801
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
(808)923-1811

Waikiki, Oahu

Mar.31: Hawaiian "Adopt A Duckie" Race

Over 20,000 (count' em!) rubber duckies will line up at the McCully Street Bridge and race down the Ala Wai Canal. Sponsors of winning duckies (the first 50 to cross the finish line) win "just ducky" prizes like trips and free car rental for six months. And all for a worthy cause: it's a benefit for United Cerebral Palsy of Hawaii.

Waikiki, Oahu

Apr. 14: 17th Annual Carole Kai International Bed Race and Parade

Contestants grab their beds on wheels (four-posters and otherwise) and, cheered on by thousands, *puush* and *puull* their way from Kapiolani Park to the tennis courts. All beds go to charity.

Wailea, Maui

Apr. 29: Annual May Day/Lei Day Celebration

The lei given with the Aloha greeting on arrival in Hawaii is just a small sample of what you'll see as the age-old art of making leis goes big time during the annual islandwide lei-making contest. The exotic entries are a must-see! Demonstrations and exhibits of Hawaiian arts and crafts, entertainment and an appearance by Maui's Aloha Week Royal Court. At the Maui Inter-Continental Wailea Hotel.

IDAHO

Idaho Travel Council
Hall of Mirrors, 2nd Fl., 700 W. State St.
Boise, Idaho 83720
(800)635-7820

Pocatello

Mar. 14-17: Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo

Over $200,000 in prize money is up for grabs by 200 of the world's best cowboys as they qualify for the championship round. Bareback, saddleback and bull riding, steer wrestling, roping and barrel-racing competitions determine the winner.

Mar. 24-25; 30-31; Apr. 1: World Cutter and Chariot Race Championships

Shades of the Roman Empire! The "best of the west" compete in this one-of-a-kind, 1/4-mile racing event held on its very own, specially treated racetrack. Snow, sleet or rain, they'll run, Ben-Hur-style. Believe it or not, in four hours, they run a total of 45 races! At Pocatello Downs, 1-5 p.m.

McCall

Mar. 4-11: First Security Winter Games of the Idaho Centennial

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warmup games are being held in the state. Alpine and Nordic ski events, also freestyle. Brundidge Ski Resort.

IOWA

Bureau of Tourism and Visitors
Iowa Dept. of Economic Development
200 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
(800)345-4692

Cedar Rapids

Mar. 3-4: Maple Syrup Festival

Grab a bucket and get ready for a sweet experience! Tap a maple tree, then gather and boil the sap into syrup. Now dig into those pancakes, topped with (guess what?). Did you know it takes *40* gallons of sap to make *one* gallon of maple syrup? At the Indian Creek Nature Center.

Emmetsburg

Mar. 16-18: 28th Annual St. Patrick's Celebration

If your sister city was Dublin, Ireland, wouldn't you throw a huge St. Patty's Day party on "wearin' o' the green" day? Well, it is, and they are, and it's all here — a visiting VIP from "the ol' sod," green beer, Irish bagpipe bands, a Miss Shamrock Pageant and Parade, and an "around the loch" (lake) run. Erin Go Bragh!

KANSAS

Kansas Dept. of Commerce
Travel and Tourism Division
400 SW 8th, 5th Floor
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3957
(913)296-2009

Hays

Apr. 27-29: Hays Days

Want a taste of the Old West? Speaking literally, try the free barbecue, then get into the mood with a ride on a stagecoach. Don't forget to catch the gunfight, then sit back, order a brew and relax with some real old-fashioned melodrama.

Coffeyville

Apr. 26-28:15th Annual New Beginning Festival

Just to keep you on your toes, this ambitious three-day event starts on *Thursday*. The Coffeyville folks welcome Spring in grand style with a Cheese Festival at which you can sample and buy cheeses from around the world, a barbecue chicken cook-off (the winner gets prizes to cluck about), an antique car show, the ever-so-popular bed race, country western and gospel music, a carnival and, always a kid's favorite, the Pinewood Auto Derby.

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Office of Tourism
P.O. Box 94291
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9291
(504)342-8119

New Orleans

Apr. 27: New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival

Music, music, music! Over 4,000 musicians, big names, and 11 simultaneous stages worth of folk, gospel, popular, jazz, rhythm and blues, Afro-Caribbean and Cajun. And to keep your tummy tuned up, over 90 varieties of Louisiana specialties, including filet gumbo, alligator sauce piquante, red beans and rice. Through May 6 at the Fairgrounds.

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Office of Tourism
375 Jackson Street, 250 Skyway Level
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(800)328-1461

Finland

Mar. 16-17: 15th Annual St. Urho's Day celebration

Legend has it, that in Ireland, St. Patrick got rid of the snakes, but, taking second place to none is St. Urho who, sources reveal, drove the grasshoppers out of the vineyards in Finland by chanting "heinasirkka, heinasirkka, monetaalta hiiteen" (!!!##**) which would certainly drive even the biggest of grasshoppers away. The special event is the not-so-traditional Miss Helmi Beauty Pageant, featuring hairy-legged contestants. You guessed it. They're all men, dressed up as women, vying to be St. Urho's bride! A tongue-in-cheek, wacky event guaranteed to break winter's cabin fever.

MISSOURI

Missouri Division of Tourism
Truman State Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 1055
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
(314)751-4133

Hermann

Mar. 17-18: Hermann Wurstfest

Sausages hang out here — outside and inside, in all shapes and forms. And you can taste all you want. Don't miss the winery and distillery tours and after that (if you can), you'll be ready to dance your feet off — German-style.

Hannibal

Apr. 7-8: 8th Annual Wild Turkey and Owl Hooting Contest

Here's a quick seminar in gobbling and hooting. You must have at least five calls down pat to enter. The competition is held in several different divisions, age-wise, and there's even a "friction" division. Give up? That means using an instrument instead of your voice. Remember, practice makes perfect, plus it's a great way to get to know your neighbors!

Charleston

Apr. 21-22: Dogwood-Azalea Festival

The colorful azalea and Missouri's state tree, the dogwood, display their finest colors during this festival. Touring the blooms by candlelight or even in daylight is the highlight each year. Tours of old homes, an ice cream social, queen contest and parade round out the picturesque affair.

MONTANA

Travel Montana, Dept. of Commerce
1424 - 9th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620
(800)-541-1447 or
in-state (406)444-2645

Red Lodge

Mar. 3-4: Red Lodge Mountain Winter Carnival

Hot stuff going on here as firemen in full gear attempt to maneuver a 50-foot section of hose through a slalom course! Anti-climactic but also fun — a treasure hunt, obstacle races and a beautiful torchlight parade which gets the whole thing started.

Helena

Apr. 22: Helena Railroad Fair

Choo-choo lovers, chug on over to the flea market at the Helena Civic Center. Everything and anything to do with trains is right here, from models, railroad lanterns, posters, books, records, even telegraph keys — and they're all for sale!

NEBRASKA

Division of Travel and Tourism
Dept. of Economic Development
P.O. Box 94666
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4666
(800)228-4307 or in-state (800)742-7595

Omaha

Mar. 20-25: 1990 Home Show

The midwest's largest home consumer showcase displays state-of-the-art room decorating ideas, eye-catching floral and garden exhibits, the latest in products

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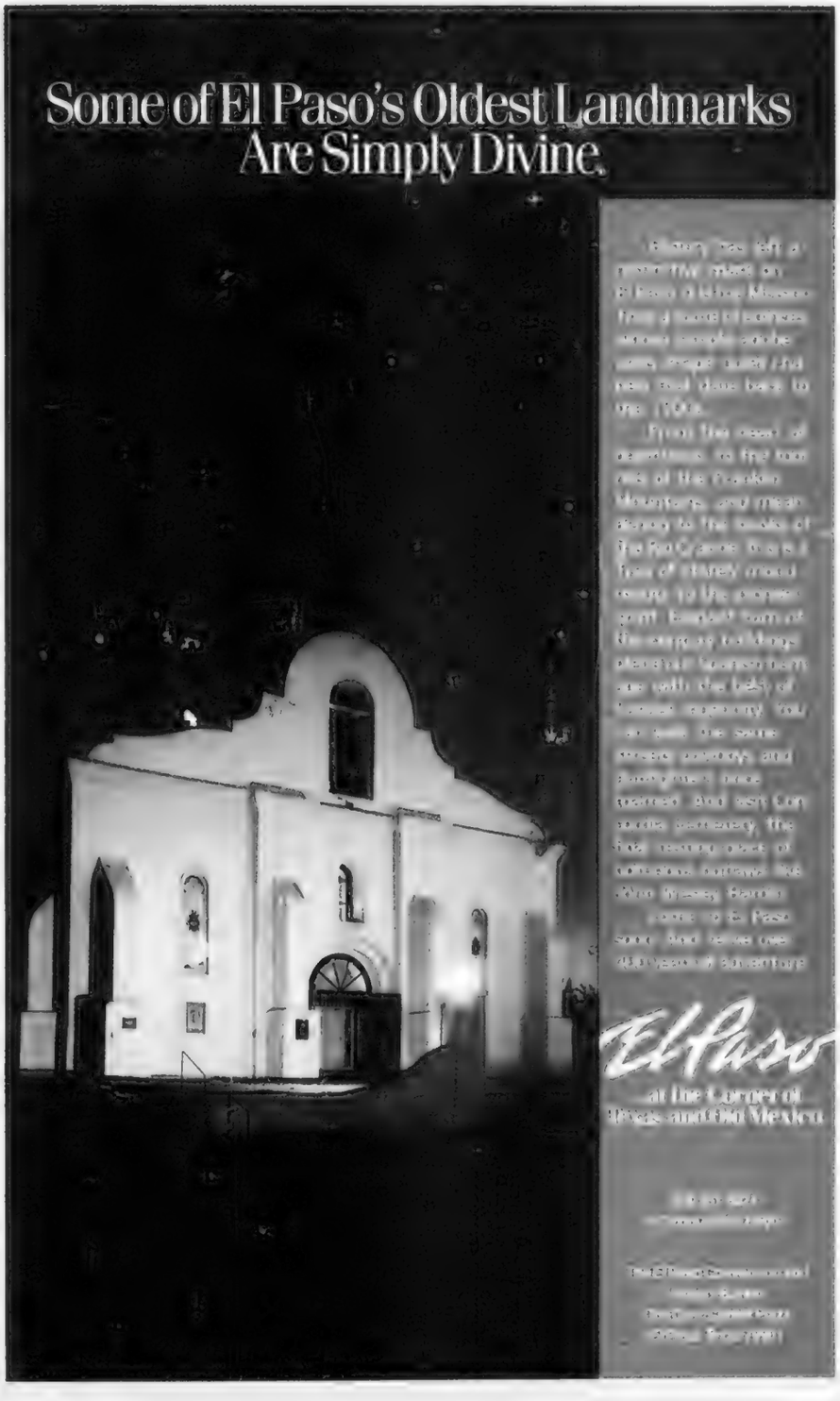

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See Reader Service Card listing on page 49

and services and the how-tos of indoor and outdoor remodeling.

Nebraska City

Apr. 27-29: National Arbor Day Celebration

J. Sterling Morton's 52-room mansion (Arbor Lodge) is here, plus 60 gorgeous acres of arboretum. And, in case you didn't know, Morton is the founder of Arbor Day. To commemorate the founding in 1885, scheduled events include tree plantings, a flea market, arts and craft fairs, a carnival and environmental awareness games for children (they use the trails to find and identify different species of leaves and pine cones). At Arbor Lodge State Park and Arbor Lodge.

NEVADA

Nevada Commission on Tourism
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(800)237-0774

Boulder City

Mar. 2-3: Hoover Dam Square Dance Festival

Allemande left, allemande right, then all promenade! Sound familiar? Dancers from western states form their squares to do all of the above plus round dancing. Don't miss the tripping of the light fantastic atop the Dam site itself (Saturday, 9-10 a.m.) Word has it that after this weekend workout, everyone, but hopefully not the dam, collapses. At Elton Garrett High School.

Reno

Mar. 31-Apr. 1: International Kite Festival

Kite flyers from around the country flock to this festival with the smallest (size of a postage stamp) to the biggest (over 100 feet long) kites! Some of the contests you can expect to see: giant newspaper kite event, stunt kite team ballet, bulls-eye contest and, to add to the international "air", India fighting-kite keepaway and the Japanese rokkaku casino kite fight using eight-foot, eight-sided kites. Something different and quite a sight!

NEW MEXICO

Economic Development & Tourism Dept.
P.O. Box 20003
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
(800)545-2040 or in-state (505)827-0291

Red River

Mar. 3: Just Desserts And Ski

Clever name and fun, too! Could also be called "Ski N' *Stuff*" as participants "sample" delicious pies, cakes and other goodies

on arrival at numerous designated areas.

Albuquerque

Apr. 20-21: 7th Annual International World Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow
An awesome sight as over 1500 American Indian war dancers and singers from more than 400 tribes gather in ceremonial dress to compete and demonstrate traditional tribal customs. There's also an Indian Traders, Arts & Crafts market as well as the crowning of "Miss Indian World." Bring lots of film! At the University of New Mexico Arena.

Santa Fe

Apr. 27-29: Spring into Santa Fe for the Weekend
The city's finest artists pull out all the stops for you. Take the gallery walk and enjoy contemporary and southwestern art, pottery and fine sculptures. All within walking distance of the Plaza where the Indians are selling their wares. Nice time of the year to visit, too. Not so crowded.

NORTH DAKOTA

Tourism Promotion
Liberty Memorial Bldg., Capitol Grounds
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505
(800)437-2077 or in-state (800)472-2100

Valley City

Mar. 1-11: North Dakota Winter Show
Rough ridin' at the rodeo, plus livestock and horse shows. Farm and home exhibits add to the fun and better yet, it's all indoors!

Grand Forks

Apr. 2-8: 21st Annual Native American Time-Out and "Wachipi"
Panel discussions with tribal chairmen, Indian art auction, and the "Wachipi" (Sioux for Pow Wow), featuring traditional, fancy, grass and jingle-dress dancing. Try the buffalo stew and fry bread. Organized every year by Native American students on campus, the event is held at the University of North Dakota.

OKLAHOMA

Tourism and Recreation Dept.
500 Will Rogers Bldg.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105
(800)652-6552

Oklahoma City

Apr. 14-22: Centennial Horse Show
A week-long event commemorating the state's Land Run Centennial. You'll see an impressive variety of horses, including Arabians, Morgans, National Show Horses, American Saddlebreds and Hackney/Harness Ponies.

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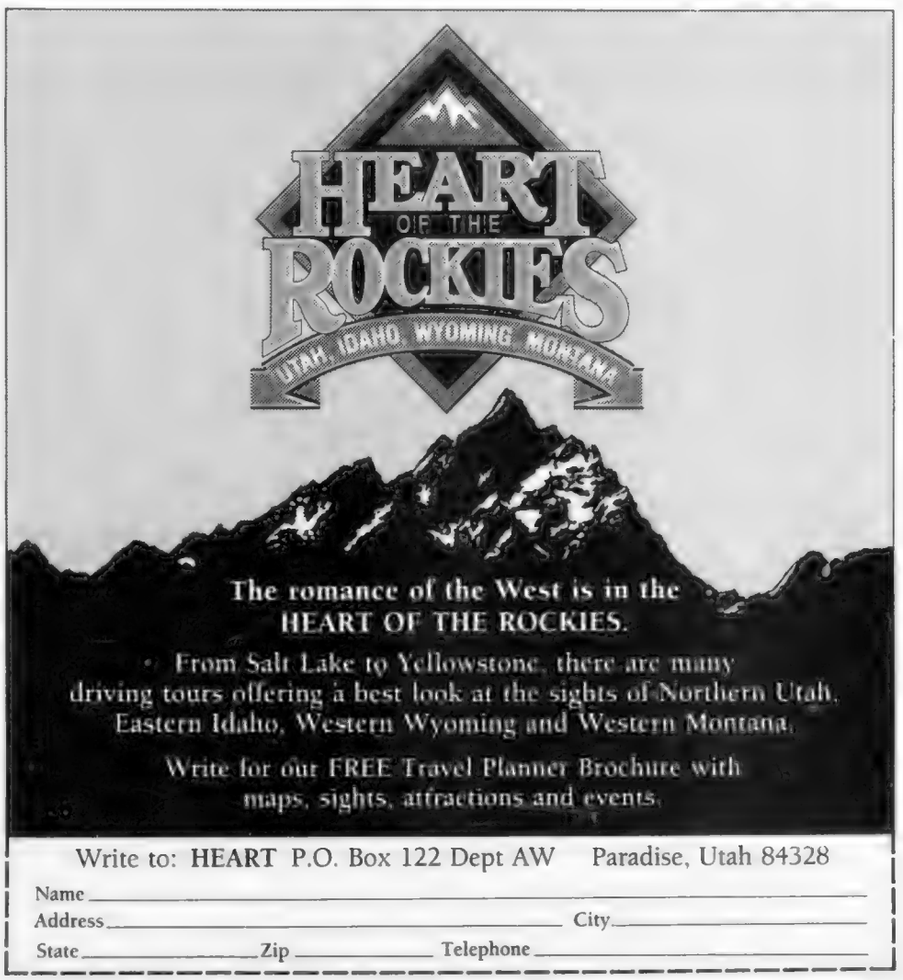

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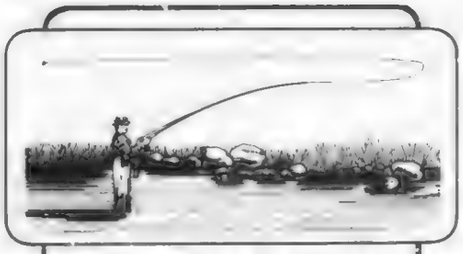

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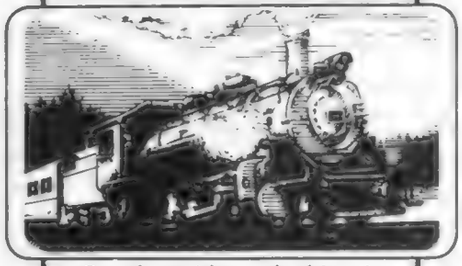

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With Partial Funding by: Wyoming Council for the Humanities · Wyoming Centennial Commission
Western Wyoming Community College · U.S. West Foundation

Beaver

Apr. 15-21: Cimarron Territory Days/ World Cow Chip Throwing Contest
The singular event of note here is the "pasture discus" contest. 'Nuff said.

Mangum

Apr. 27-29: Rattlesnake Derby
Hunters stalk the wily rattlesnake with prizes for the longest, shortest, heaviest, etc., etc. And, for the faint of heart who might want to "wiggle" out of this one, try the flea market, carnival and musical entertainment.

OREGON

Economic Development Dept.
Tourism Division
595 Cottage Street, N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97310
(800)547-7842 or in-state (800)543-8838

Medford

Apr. 13-15: 37th Annual Pear Blossom Festival
Since this area is known for its wonderful pears, why not have a festival in honor of the tasty fruit? Meet "Huggy Bear" (Medford's mascot) in the grand parade, join in the Mayor's Cup Walk, Jog or Run (take your choice), and watch the crowning of the Pear Blossom King and Queen. Also an arts and crafts fair, square dancing and gymnastics.

Forest Grove

Mar. 9-10: All-Northwest Barbershop Ballad Contest and Gay Nineties Festival
Barbershop quartets from throughout the Pacific Northwest sing for their supper as they compete for prizes. It's back to the 1890s as stores spiffy up their windows with period decor and people parade in costume. Best beard, best costume wins the prize. An outhouse burning calls the fire department out for their speediest "outhouse douse." Incongruously, there's also a gem show.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Tourism Dept.
Capitol Lake Plaza
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
(800)843-1930 or in-state (800)952-2217

Freeman

Mar. 22-24: Schmeckfest
A "tasting" festival covering everything from soup to nuts, German-style. Not only do you get to eat it, but they show you how to make it. Also a demonstration of the art of wheat-weaving for attractive and unusual decorations.

TEXAS

State Dept. of Highway
Texas Travel & Information Division
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701
(512)463-8585

Granbury

Mar. 10: General Granbury's Birthday Party & Bean & Rib Cookoff
See and sample one of the state's largest birthday cakes. And if that doesn't tickle your tastebuds, the Bean and Rib Cookoff entices amateur cooks from around the state to enter their finest recipes. All this in honor of Granbury's namesake, General Hiram B. Granberry who died in the Battle of Franklin during the Civil War.

Waxahachie

April 29: Scarborough Faire
Knight time is the right time at the ninth annual Renaissance Festival. Step back into time and 16th-century England and see more than 800 costumed entertainers and artisans re-create a typical English village marketplace. And you won't go away hungry, either! Through June 11, including Memorial Day.

UTAH

Utah Travel Council
Council Hall/Capitol Hill
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
(801)538-1030

Ogden

Mar. 16-18: Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Show
On display are gems and minerals indigenous to the state, i. e. topaz, petrified wood, silver, quartz, red carnelian wood (unavailable since the 60s). The centerpiece is the Golden Topaz from the Smithsonian Institution along with statewide museum exhibits. At Union Station.

Park City

Apr. 15: Easter Celebration
A sunrise service presents a spectacular sight at the base of the resort. Then, hop on over to the slopes and ski with the Easter Bunny for the rest of the day.

WASHINGTON

Dept. of Trade and Economic Development, Tourism Division
101 General Administration Bldg.
Olympia, Washington 98504-0613
(206)586-2102

Tacoma

Mar. 31-Apr. 8: 57th Annual Daffodil Festival
It's rainin' daffodils, not violets, as this popular event gets underway. The Grand Floral Street Parade features many floats

SEE YELLOWSTONE
BUFFALO BILL'S WAY

Legends of Yellowstone Park started with the Mountain Men. Cody, founded by "Buffalo Bill", drew settlers, desparados, and cowboys to experience the legends for themselves. Today you can tour the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, raft the river, take in a rodeo, stay at a guest ranch and stroll Cody's downtown Historic District. Relive the legends winning the West!

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Texas Department of Commerce, Tourism Division

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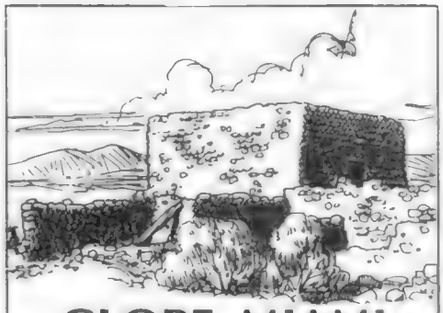

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Chamber of Commerce
Box 2539, Globe, AZ 85502 (602)425-4495

decorated with over 90,000 of the trumpet-shaped yellow beauties. A Daffodil Queen's Ball honors this year's winner. Don't miss the Marine Floral Parade as boat owners from area yacht clubs outdecorate each other for a spectacular sea-going parade.

WYOMING

Wyoming Travel Commission
I-25 at College Drive
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0660
(800)225-5996 or in-state (307)777-7777

Teton Village (Jackson Hole Area)
Mar. 3-4: Para Ski Championships
This all started in the Swiss Alps as a search and rescue operation. Competitors must zero in on a *three-inch* orange disk in the snow, then jump from a helicopter at an altitude of 2,500 feet! Just chutes, no skis. And if you're standing on *top* of Thunder Mountain at an altitude of 4,000 feet, you'll look *down* at the jumps. How's that for a twist? The giant slalom ski race is the next day.

WESTERN CANADA

Alberta

Travel Alberta
10025 Jasper Ave., 15th Floor
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3Z3
(800)-661-8888

Edmonton
Mar. 28-31: Northlands Superodeo
Thrills n' spills as top names from North America compete in bareback and saddle bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling and ladies' barrel racing.

Calgary
Mar. 21-22: 1990 World Championship Speedskating
Many new faces this year as Olympic hopefuls skate their hearts out for a shot at the '92 Games. At the Calgary University Speedskating Oval.

British Columbia

Tourism British Columbia
2600 Michelson Street, Suite 150
Irvine, California
(714) 852-1054

Vancouver
Apr. 5-8: B. C. Great Outdoor Show
The largest outdoor exhibition of fishing, water sports and adventure sports in Western Canada, displaying the latest in fishing, boating and marine-related products. Also outdoor adventure sports, including rock-climbing (a new demonstration sport in the 1992 Summer Olympics). An international rock-climbing competition (Olympic warmup) will be held during the show at an on-site 80-foot climbing wall. At the B.C. Place Stadium.

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Economic Development and Tourism
1919 Saskatchewan Dr.
Regina, Canada
S4P 3V7
(306) 787-3872

Regina
Apr. 14-15: 13th Annual Saskatchewan Indian Federated College Pow-Wow
Native American Indians from across North America compete in various categories including fancy feather dancing, traditional war dancing, traditional grass dancing, fancy shawl and jingle dress dancing. Winners are selected by ability and costuming. Historic Indian foods and Indian craft displays. At Canada Centre Exhibition Park.

The Yukon

Tourism Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon YT CANADA
Y1A2C6
(403)667-5340

Dawson City
Mar. 23-25: Spring Carnival
Indoor mirth and merriment in the two bars in town! There's a lip-synch contest (must have the best costume, too), arm-wrestling and a winter fashion show (long underwear is a must!). The rolling pin and chain saw throws add some "hair-raising" moments with tamer events including snowshoe, smoosh and toboggan races. (*Smoosh* is a *real* word and it means four people aboard two 2x4s, trying to get *anywhere!*)

❖ ❖ ❖

Editor's Note: We would like to receive information regarding interesting and unusual events in your area for our May/June issue. Please send to **Western Calendar Editor, The American West Travel & Life, 7000 E. Tanque Verde Rd., Suite 30, Tucson, Az. 85715** by **Feb. 15.** ❖

*Northwest Centennial celebrations are being held in 1990 in the states of Idaho and Wyoming. Following are some of the major events scheduled:

IDAHO CENTENNIAL EVENTS

BOISE
June 15-17: Jaialdi '90 International Basque Festival
July 3: Statehood Day and Centennial Gala
July 9-15: All-Idaho Indian Exposition
July 14: Ada County River Regatta
August 12-16: Idaho Indian Poetry Gathering

LEWISTON
May 11-13: Timbert A Celebration of the Logging and Wood Products Industry

REXBURG
July 28-Aug. 6: Idaho International Folk Dance Festival

SANDPOINT
June 22-July 8: Ore-Ida Women's Challenge (World-Class Bicycling Event)

SOUTHERN IDAHO
June 27-July 4: Union Pacific/Idaho Centennial Whistle Stop Tour

WEISER
June 18-21: National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest

WYOMING CENTENNIAL EVENTS

CHEYENNE
Apr. 1-30: Wyoming: Painters' Perspectives -Wyoming State Museum
July 7-10: Statehood Day Celebration
July 24: Statehood Centennial Parade

CASPER
June 28-July 4: Classic International Bike Race

CODY
May 25-Sept.3: Rendezvous to Roundup: The First 100 Years of Art In Wyoming - Buffalo Bill Historical Center
May 26-28: Old West Rodeo

CURT GOWDY STATE PARK
July 7-8: Happy Jack Mountain Music Festival

LARAMIE
July 6-8: Grand Opening-Wyoming Territorial Prison

PINEDALE
July 6-8: 54th Annual Green River Rendezvous Pageant

ROCK SPRINGS
June 23: International Night

SOUTH PASS CITY
July 4: 4th of July Celebration - South Pass City State Historic Site

TETON VILLAGE
July 11-25: Grand Teton Music Festival

For a detailed listing of all Centennial events, contact each State's tourism bureaus.

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The American
WEST

SPOTLIGHT ON SAN DIEGO and ALBUQUERQUE
Patrick and Lyn Seslar, Scott Warren and the editorial staff of The American West give an insider's look at two popular western cities.

NEVADA
Doug McMillan takes readers on a tour through a state that has lots more than gambling going for it.

PLUS
A look at some "artistic" billboards and Dining in Laguna.

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INN ON THE ALAMEDA

LETTERS

continued from page 32

Bright New Look

Bright new editorial policy and a bright new look celebrate the new *American West*. With so much natural beauty, so many things to see and do, so many innovative people and cities and organizations, there's no end to the possibilities.

On Page 10 of "Chronicle West", to my surprise I found relatives! Minnie Barker, one of the three girls to the right in the photograph, married my father's oldest brother, Fred Barker. He traveled from Oregon to Beulah, New Mexico, to meet and marry his bride, after a correspondence courtship. One had written a little story published in a magazine, and the other noted the similarity in names and wrote to make the introduction.

Would it be of interest to your readers to see a picture of Minnie as a young woman with her first baby Alice on her lap? They are pretty much the center of a family picnic in the Fairview Valley in Coos County, Oregon. Date is probably late summer 1904.

Aileen Barker Rickard
Cottage Grove, OR

(Editor's Note: Yes it would, and our readers can enjoy another Barker family photo in this issue's section of Chronicle West.)

Murder, He Wrote

As a charter subscriber, it was with a profound sense of loss that I read your "Editor's Letter" in the December 1989 issue. A black border would have been appropriate around the page because it was tantamount to a death announcement: an old friend is no more!

The American West became an instant friend when I opened that first issue, labeled "Winter 1964, Volume I, Number 1." It was a robust magazine of the history of our beloved "Old West." For 15-plus years, it abounded in accounts of the triumphs and tragedies of the rugged men and women who won the West, pioneering not only geographically, but also intellectually, artistically, and culturally. I eagerly opened each new quarterly, and later bi-monthly, issue. Each of those issues earned a permanent place in my library.

Then, 10 or so years ago, my old friend began to change. It lost its backbone. It became literally and figuratively spineless. New articles and features began to appear that were not related to the history of the West. Many historical articles remained, however, and the new features were well done and had some interest. But like a cancer they grew, consuming more and more space, squeezing the historical accounts down to only two per issue. Still, these few were good and were an integral part of the publication. Then, suddenly, the cancer became the magazine and the history became an insert — an appendix. And now, with this most recent issue, there is only one pitiful, little, two-page article of Old West history. And the editor dares proudly to tell us that henceforth the focus will be western travel and lifestyles. She should instead blush with shame and wail in remorse for having plunged her dagger into the emaciated, frail body of my old and dear friend. In the words of Shakespeare, it was "Murder most foul!"

Knowing some history of the Old West enriches our travel in the new West. It gives dimension and perspective to scenery and locales. It helps us appreciate our heritage. But I forget — this is the "NOW Generation" and most are ignorant of and couldn't care less about their heritage. More's the pity. For, as it says on the walls of the National Archives Building, "What is past is prologue." Those only interested in the "now" are what George Santayana feared when he stated that those ignorant of history are doomed to repeat it, i.e., its worst mistakes.

So now we have just another western travel magazine. There will be no more tales of the colorful, bawdy, and rowdy Old West that fired our imaginations. Well, I reckon such a magazine can "git along" without me. The friendship of a quarter century is dead. I challenge you to publish this letter, unedited, and solicit your readers' opinions.

Richard V. Montag
Salem, OR

(Editor's Note: The deed is done.)

Big Bravo

Just a little note to convey a big BRAVO! on the new format for *The American West*. The December 1989 issue is lovely with its cover featuring Tucson.

Thank you for the great articles on our wonderful city. We look forward to more good coverage from your magazine.

Patti Spaulding
Tour and Travel Sales Manager,
Metropolitan Tucson
Convention & Visitors Bureau
Tucson, AZ

❖ ❖ ❖

Acknowledgement

Due to several printing problems we neglected to include credits for much of the photography in the February 1990 issue. G. Reid Helms took the pictures for Oklahoma City; Lawrence Cheek did Galveston; Carolyn Roth photographed Portland; and Judy Wade did Kauai. ❖

In Colorado, The Fountain Of Youth Isn't A Fountain.

It's amazing how an exhilarating ride on the waves of a Colorado river can wash the years away and leave you feeling like a kid again. River rafting, however, is just one way a vacation in Colorado can help you rediscover that wide-eyed kid in you. Soaring in a hot air balloon. Hiking in the beautiful Rockies. Fishing a mountain stream. Or exploring ancient Indian ruins or ghost towns seem to have the same effect.

So, if you're tired of acting your age, send for our free Vacation Guide. Or call toll-free and ask for extension 118.

COLORADO

1 - 8 0 0 - 4 3 3 - 2 6 5 6

Colorado Tourism Board, Box 38700
Dept. 118, Denver, Colorado 80238

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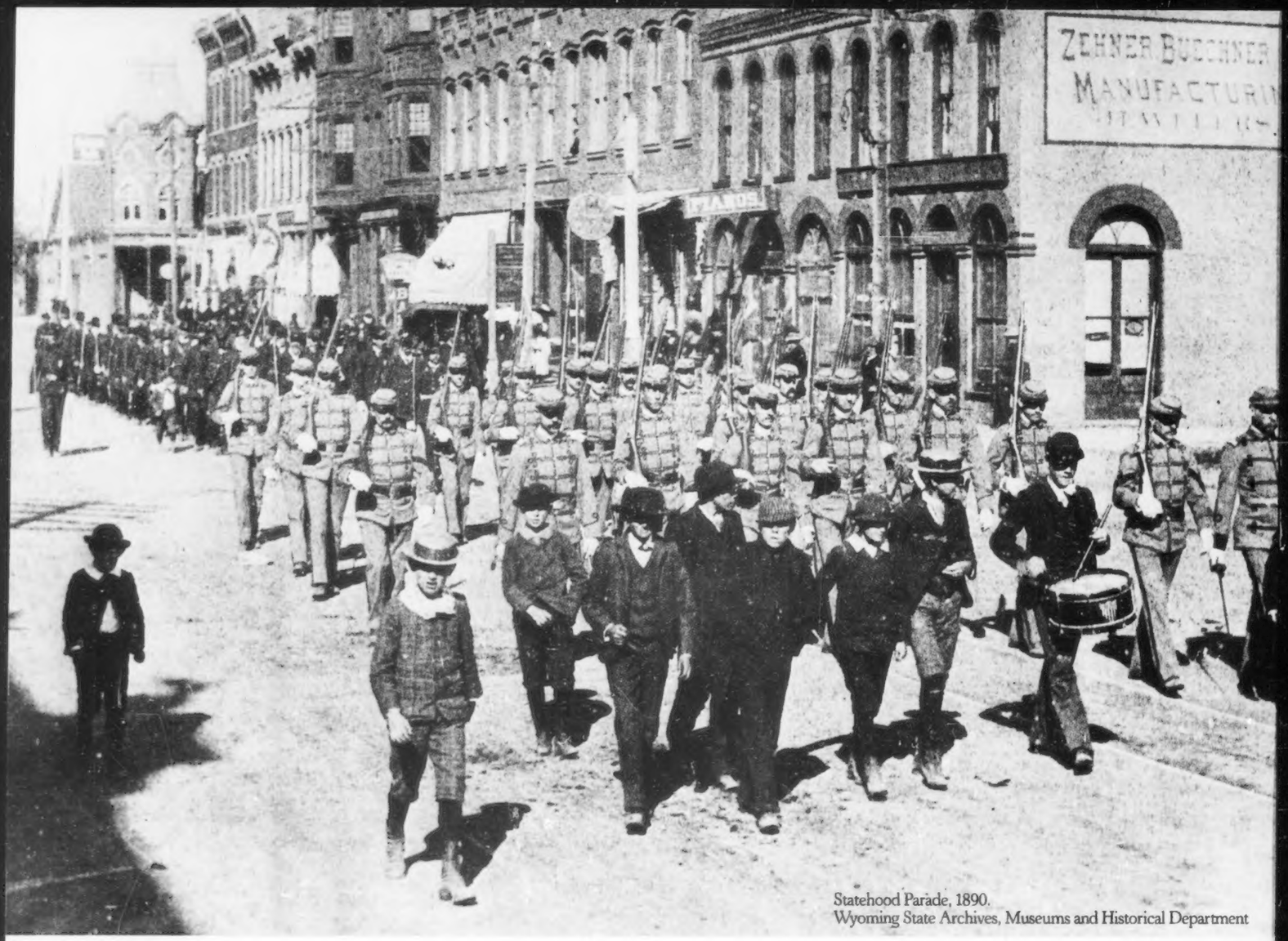
State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____



Statehood Parade, 1890.
Wyoming State Archives, Museums and Historical Department

Wyoming has always known how to throw a party.

So don't miss our Centennial Celebration, the biggest and best yet! ● From Cheyenne to Jackson, Sundance to Rock Springs, the people of Wyoming have spruced up the towns, fired up loads of great events and pulled out all the stops. We want to show you the colorful heritage of Wyoming and why we're so proud to live here. ● You could tour the North American Indian Heritage Center, clap along at the Old Time Fiddle Contest, watch the chips fly at the Woodchoppers' Jamboree, dance up a storm at the Rocky Mountain Polka Festival, see the Snodeo at a Wild West Winter Carnival, trade for skins at a Mountain Man Rendezvous or help open the new Fossil Butte Visitor Center. These are just some of the many exciting, educational events going on throughout 1989 & 90. ● It will be a couple of years of excitement and surprises you won't want to miss. For a complete list of Centennial events, as well as accommodations, call the Wyoming Travel Commission at **1-800-225-5996.** ● C'mon over—it'll be a hundred years before we do this again!

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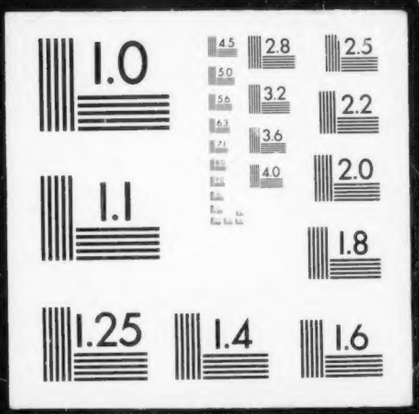
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